

Coalition Support

American Friends Service Committee
 Bishop Gumbleton
 Buddhist Peace Fellowship-SE Michigan Chapter
 Campaign 4 Youth Justice
 Center for Children's Law and Policy
 Central Detroit Christian CDC
 Child Welfare League of America
 Church Women United
 Cranbrook Peace Foundation
 Emmaus House of Saginaw, Inc
 Holy Cross Children's Services-Lansing
 Indigent Defense Counsel-National
 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
 Intense Mentoring, Inc.
 League of Women Voters of Michigan
 Making It To the Finish Line
 Mary Church Terrell
 Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling
 Strength of Michigan (M.O.S.E.S)
 Michigan Association for Children with
 Emotional Disorders
 Michigan Battered Women's Clemency
 Project
 Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
 Michigan County Social Services Association
 Michigan Federation for Children and Families
 Michigan League of Human Services
 Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services
 Michigan's Children
 Motivators Parent Child Advocacy Group
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-Detroit Chapter
 National Juvenile Justice Network
 Parent Child Advocacy Group
 Penal Reform International
 Prison Legal Services of Michigan
 Rose Hill Center
 Second Chance Legislation
 Student Advocacy Center
 Pickett Fences Ministries
 Progressive Jewish Alliance
 St. Leo Church
 Team for Justice
 The Battered Women's Clemency Project
 The Moorish Science Temple of America
 The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan
 Washington Heights UMC

“There can be
no keener
revelation of a
society’s soul
than the way in
which it treats
its children.”

Nelson Mandela

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF
GENDER STUDIES

December 28, 2007

SCL
ATTN: Hearing
PO Box 313
Lake Orion, MI. 48362

Dear SCL, Michigan House Rep. Paul Condino, and other Legislators:

I write to convey my support for Second Chance Legislation for Juveniles, House Bills 4402-4405 and to plead Mr. Antonio Espree-Bey's (195446) case for parole.

This letter serves as confirmation that in the event that Mr. Espree-Bey is released, I take full responsibility for ensuring his successful re-entry into society. As one of his closest relatives, I will provide Antonio with a living environment conducive to his educational, occupational, personal development. Overall, I am committed to playing a central role in Antonio's potential transition from an incarcerated person to a paroled civilian.

First, let me briefly discuss my relationship to Antonio, my background, and my suitability as a central player in Mr. Espree-Bey's social transition. I am Antonio's cousin through marriage. His mother married my uncle, who raised Antonio during a brief period in his childhood. Yet, my uncle was convicted of raping another relative and was recently released from prison after serving thirteen years. He has not seen or spoken to Antonio in almost twenty years. Antonio's biological father, who died last year, was never in Antonio's life.

Thus, after Antonio's mother and my uncle divorced, she was faced with the challenge of raising Antonio and his two brothers as a single parent. But Antonio's mother, who passed away in 2001, was an alcoholic. Consequently, as children, Antonio and I spent an extensive amount of time together because he often came to my house to escape very difficult circumstances at his home. My mother initiated procedures to adopt Antonio, but unfortunately, for various reasons, this did not materialize. Not a day goes by that I do not regret that my mother did not adopt Antonio. I believe that the home in which I grew up, although it was not perfect, would have created far more positive circumstances for Antonio.

Suzanna D. Walters,
Chairperson

Memorial Hall, East 130
1021 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

Phone: 812-855-0101
Fax: 812-855-4869

e-mail:
gender@indiana.edu

Many years later, after Antonio's conviction, Ms. Espree-Banes stopped drinking and was leading a very productive life, continuously trying to find a way to get a second chance with Antonio and her other sons. Shockingly, Antonio's older brother was killed. Later that same year, their mother's own untimely death prevented her from rebuilding a relationship with all of her children. Antonio has a younger brother who has had to weather the storm of his entire family dying around him all alone, while having almost no access to his older brother, Antonio. I have intimate knowledge of Antonio's experiences because I have been a part of Antonio, his mother, and his siblings' lives for most of my life. I have always been more like a big brother to Antonio than a cousin. And it was only after we had lost contact with each other during a very brief period in our lives that he got into trouble. Our entire family has been gripped by drugs, alcohol and violence, and these realities have challenged both of us in a variety of ways. Fortunately, my experiences have turned out better.

Therefore, it is my hope that Antonio and I can have another chance at our relationship, and I can be the brother to him that I always wanted to be, but could not because of his incarceration.

Having earned a Ph.D. in African American Studies from the University of California-Berkeley in 2006, I am currently an Assistant Professor in Gender Studies and African American & African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. Immediately after completing my doctorate, I was a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in Gender and Women's Studies at UC-Berkeley. Earlier in my career, I was a professor at the University of Kentucky and the University of Michigan-Flint.

Throughout my almost twenty year academic career, as both a student and a professor, I have taught and mentored numerous students from all walks of life. I have maintained relationships with some of these students, and I have had the opportunity to observe their growth. And in most cases, those students who came out of some of the most challenging childhood situations stand out in my mind as the most successful. It is worth mentioning that I am actively engaged in a wide range of community activities as an HIV/AIDS prevention activist. I have never committed a felony, I am drug free, and I only surround myself with law abiding and socially progressive people. From my extensive knowledge of Antonio, this is the kind of environment of which he has always wanted to be a part.

If Mr. Espree-Bey were to be paroled, I will provide a safe, drug and alcohol-free home and community for him. He will be surrounded by positive and socially productive people. Since I am an academic, I would strongly encourage and facilitate Antonio's entrance in a college/university to complete his degree(s). My professional and community experiences have garnered me an enormous amount of access to various people and organizations who can be of assistance to Antonio. More specifically, I will provide and connect him to treatment and to other programs that will help ensure his healthy transition into civilianhood as well as sustain his overall personal development.

Antonio's conviction was his first felony ever. And if there is any person that I know who has learned from such a costly mistake and who is now ready to return to society as a newly rehabilitated citizen, it is Mr. Antonio Espree-Bey. As an educator and scholar, I encounter a number of people who come from far less troubled backgrounds than Mr. Espree-Bey, and I cannot say the same for them. As I am sure it is evident in his file, over the nearly twenty years of his incarceration, Antonio has traveled on the road of rehabilitation in a variety of ways. He has been a model inmate and has an exceptional record for someone who came to prison at the age of sixteen. Because of the extensive amount of time he has spent there, he has become an elder, so to speak, to some of the younger inmates, offering guidance to those in need. He has been a stellar employee in Food Services and has achieved many academic credentials while in prison. Surely, with adequate assistance, this is a testament to what can be expected of Mr. Espree-Bey in the civilian world.

I want to emphasize that my focus on Antonio's life and his traumatic childhood experiences are in no way meant to minimize the profound pain and suffering that Antonio's crime has caused the family members of his victim. I reflect on their son's death with deep sorrow, and there are no words that can sufficiently express my sympathy. However, it is my hope that Antonio will be given an opportunity to mitigate these circumstances by devoting his life to saving others. Basically, I ask that he be given a second chance to lead a new life so that he can be used to intervene in the circumstances that lead large numbers of people of color to prison, particularly at such a young age. I believe that Antonio is uniquely positioned to have a positive impact on the perilous outcomes where lives are

destroyed through violence, abuse, criminality, and incarceration.

I hope that this letter captures the extent to which I am committed to Antonio and my intent to play a positive role in his life. Ultimately, I want to create the proper conditions for which Antonio can work in the service of society in exchange for the freedom that his parole would grant him. If more information is needed, please feel free to contact me by phone at one of the numbers listed below or via email at baileymm@indiana.edu

Sincerely,

Marlon M. Bailey M.F.A., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Gender Studies and African American &
African Diaspora Studies
Department of Gender Studies
Indiana University, Bloomington
Memorial Hall East, Room 130
1021 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47405
Office: (812) 855-8255
Home: (317) 885-5327
Cell: (510) 484-6440

I am not the same person that I was in 1992 when I was 16 years old. I am now 32 years old. Today I am different because not only do I see where I went wrong and what I did wrong, I also can understand and accept responsibility for myself. I am a mature woman now. I have tried my best to understand the circumstances which lead me to prison. I realized after coming here that I had two choices, I could either stay the same person who I was or I could change who I was. After the first year of my incarceration I started to see other people and I didn't like what I saw. I realized that what I didn't like was who I was! I have went through Mental Health therapy which included individual as well as group therapy. That has helped me to discover and relate to the feelings and emotions that I had struggled with before and during this time I have spent in prison.

I began to see the ability and intelligence that lay dormant within me. I earned my G.E.D. Certificate which gave me enough confidence to move forward with my education. I earned college credits shortly after completing my G.E.D. I earned a Career Tech. Certificate and learned how to start a business and operate one fully. I am currently taking part in college studies, offered by University of Michigan Dearborn.

During my years of incarceration I have learned the value of life, not only my own but for people in general. I have developed a deep passion for other people. I am able to give freely and feel good. I am able to understand the importance of Laws and consequences.

I have the mature mind of an adult who will serve a purpose in life. I have the personal knowledge and experience of being on both sides.

I will never ignore the mistake that I made almost sixteen years ago. Everyday I become a better person. I can share my situation with others and possibly help some other young person. As I am a better person because I have learned and lived from my mistakes, even as an adult.

I'd like to sincerely thank each of you for your time and consideration to me and my Second Chance. Thank you again.

Jennifer M. Pruitt #234555
Robert Scott Correctional Facility

Jennifer Pruitt 234555

MY NAME IS BARBARA HERNANDEZ AND I HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED FROM THE AGE OF 16 FOR THE LAST 17 1/2 YEARS AS A RESULT OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN A ROBBERY THAT ENDED IN MURDER.

IT DOES NOT ESCAPE ME THAT A MAN WAS SENSELESSLY MURDERED. I AM FILLED WITH REGRET, SORROW, AND SORROW FOR MY INVOLVEMENT, FOR THE VICTIM; MR. JAMES COTALING, AND FOR ALL THE PAIN CAUSED TO HIS LOVED ONES.

IN MAY OF 1990, I WAS A VERY LOST, BROKEN, AND SCARED KID. UP TO THAT POINT, I HAD ENDURED CONSTANT FEAR, DEGRADATION, AND SEVERE SEXUAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL ABUSE. A LITTLE GIRL LIKE ANY OTHER, EXCEPT LIKE MOST CHILDREN THAT ARE ABUSED BY PEOPLE THEY TRUST AND LOOK TO FOR PROTECTION, GUIDANCE, AND PROVISION; I WAS TAUGHT VERY EARLY ON TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT AND TO JUST DO WHATEVER I WAS TOLD.

MY TRIAL, AT BEST, WAS A BLUR: I WAS IN SHOCK OVER WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO MR. COTALING AND THE FACT THAT I WAS INVOLVED. I HAD WITHDRAWN SO DEEP WITHIN MYSELF THAT IF THE COURTROOM WOULD HAVE BEGUN TO CRUMBLE BRICK-BY-BRICK, I WOULD HAVE BEEN UNAFFECTED. WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE? WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE? MY MIND DIDN'T EVEN FUNCTION IN THOSE TERMS AT THE TIME. I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO THINK, JUST DO AS INSTRUCTED OR ELSE. I WASN'T EVEN PRESENT IN MIND ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE COURT PROCEEDINGS. WHEN THEY TOLD ME THAT I WAS GOING TO PRISON FOR LIFE, I DIDN'T TRANSLATE THAT IN MEANING THAT I WOULD BE IN PRISON UNTIL THE DAY I DIE. AFTER COURT WAS OVER, I BEGAN TO REALIZE THE MEANING OF LIFE IN PRISON. I BEGAN TO INTERPRET THAT AS MEANING THAT I WAS BEING PUNISHED FOR SURVIVING THE MIND-CONTROL, THE SEXUAL ABUSE, AND THE PHYSICAL ABUSE OF MY FAMILY AND CO-DEFENDANT. BECAUSE I WANTED TO LIVE, I WAS NOW BEING SENT TO DIE. BEING SENT TO PRISON FOR LIFE MEANT THAT I DID NOT MATTER AND I NEVER DID, JUST LIKE I HAD ALWAYS BEEN TAUGHT. IT WAS CONFIRMATION TO ME THAT MY PURPOSE IN LIFE WAS TO BE USED AND ABUSED UNTIL PEOPLE GOT TIRED OF ME AND THEN I WAS TO JUST DIE.

PRISON HAS BEEN LIKE MY CO-DEFENDANT; AN EXTENSION OF THE ATROCITIES I HAVE KNOWN AS A CHILD. I WAS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY ANOTHER INMATE WITHIN A MONTH OF BEING PUT IN GENERAL POPULATION. I WAS CONSTANTLY OFFERED DRUGS AND STALKED BY SEXUAL PREDATORS. I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I COULD SPEAK TO GUARDS ABOUT ANY OF THIS BECAUSE I HAD WITNESSED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GUARDS AND INMATES, AND I ALREADY HAD THE CONDITIONED MIND TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I WAS APPROACHED BY GUARDS WITH SEXUAL ADVANCES. THERE WERE INSTANCES TO WHERE IT SEEMED THEY FELT ENTITLED TO MAKE SEXUAL COMMENTS AND TO TOUCH ME IN A SEXUAL MANNER. STILL, I DID NOT TELL BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF FURTHER PUNISHMENT.

IT HAS TAKEN MANY YEARS OF STRUGGLE TO REALIZE AND ACCEPT THAT I DO MATTER, AND TO UNDO ALL THE WRONG THINKING THAT WAS BEAT INTO ME, RAPED INTO ME AND SPOKEN CONTINUALLY AT ME. I DID GO THROUGH A TUMULTUOUS PERIOD WHERE I HAD EMBRACED THE WORTHLESSNESS THAT HAD BEEN DRILLED INTO ME, TO THE EXTENT THAT I ABUSED DRUGS IN PRISON SET ON A SUICIDE MISSION. I ALSO GOT INTO FIGHTS WHEN SOMEONE HARRASSED ME BECAUSE I KNEW I WAS ALONE AND NOBODY WAS EVER GOING TO STAND UP FOR ME OR PROTECT ME. OVER TIME, I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO RECHANNEL MY THOUGHTS INTO HEALTHY ACTIONS AND REACTION. THAT AFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE.

TODAY, I AM A HEALTHY, STRONG WOMAN THAT MATTERS. TODAY, I DO NOT EMBRACE AND BELIEVE ANY OF THE MESSAGES THAT SAID I DO NOT MATTER AND THAT MY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO BE ABUSED AND THEN JUST DIE. TODAY, I AM A DETERMINED, EMPOWERED WOMAN THAT STRIVES TO LEARN, GROW AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT.

CONTRIBUTION WHEREVER I AM.

I SUBMIT TO THE PANEL THAT MYSELF AND OTHERS CONVICTED AS JUVENILES BE GRANTED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION FOR A SECOND CHANCE. WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP, AND WE HUMBL Y ASK THAT YOU DO NOT GIVE U ON US EITHER.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


BARBARA HERNANDEZ

12-23-07

MR. ANTOINE R. THOMAS #403217
RYAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
17600 RYAN ROAD
DETROIT MI 48212

pg. #1

12-27-2007

DEAR JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,

I have enclosed a Pamphlet concerning The Juvenile Legislation which includes a Profile THAT gives BASIC INFORMATION about myself and my PAST HISTORY...

BUT I would like to relay information To this committee concerning The Possibilities of my future. I choose NOT TO dwell on my PAST Because I CAN'T change what has already Happened, But my future has yet To be shaped...

Just as it was with any other individual, incarcerated or not, At 16 years old, my values, Beliefs, my Understanding of Things and my overall mind set was NOT the same as it is today. These things have changed, they have ~~evolved~~ evolved more fully. At 16 I had NO ideal of what life was about. All I wanted was To make a good impression and be admired by my peers. I was Thousands of miles away from my home and my family members,

So I Felt Like my Peers was All I Had and would Have done Almost any Thing To stay in their good graces. But such Thoughts, is my Feelings Now.

I Now understand That No matter How much I Thought I knew or How grown I Thought I was, I WAS IN Fact Just a child who needed ALOT of guidance. So I'm not going to Tell you That PRISON WAS A BAD Place For me, Because ACTUALLY IT WAS PERFECT FOR ME. Because I Have grown INTO A man and Have Been Rehabilitated. I Just Think I should not Have sentenced to so much time without there being a way to check on my growth and Rehabilitation earlier.

Prison gave me a chance to do and accomplish Things I Had Never Done Before, it gave me a chance To Reflect and evaluate my mind set, my life, my mission in life and my relationship with my family and my love ones. But most importantly of them all it gave me A chance to Develop A proper Thought Pattern.

All These Changes occurred Because I WAS INSPIRED To change my values

I WAS inspired to show my Family and Society that I was not a lost cause, and I could complete lifes mission and succeed in life all I need is a 2nd chance.

Most juveniles like myself need 2nd chances, we need to know that Society has not given up on us and just thrown us away. I mean if you had a 6yr. old child whom you had sent to their room for the night for punishment, would you not check up on that night? That is exactly what we juveniles need, TO ~~be~~ be checked up on.

Under current legislation. There is NO such early review of a juveniles sentence. But this new Bill that was introduced by Rep. Paul Condiwo allows for just that. A 2nd chance for those juveniles who have shown tremendous progress during their sentence.

This Bill give many juveniles Reason to change. It lets us know that it is not Societys intent to just throw us away and give up on our lifes. IT IS TIME TO BE OUR REASON TO Change!!!

So Before I end, I would like
to leave this committee with this
question:

Are your values, Beliefs and
Reasonable Thinking Patterns The Same
As They were when you were 15, 16
and 17? How many Times During your
Life Time Have Those values, Beliefs
and Thinking Patterns Changed?

Lastly, Would you want your Life
To Be Defined By AN MISTAKE That
you Had done when you were only
15, 16 or 17?

Thank you,

Ant. R. Thomas

MR. ANTOINE R. THOMAS #463217
RYAN CORR. FACILITY/
17600 RYAN ROAD
DET. MI 48212

December 24, 2007

Dear State Representatives & Senators;

To all concerned parties. Today I sit at Ryan Correctional Facility as a 36 year old man concerned about the Juvenile Lifers Bills. In 1987 I came to prison a 15 year old little boy confused, angry, frustrated and much more. Not even understanding that this is where I would die (PRISON). Too immature to comprehend the seriousness of what the reality of my present circumstances of life had become.

In the beginning my anger and frustration and my wanting to prove I was not a young punk took complete control of my wanting to survive inside of a mad house. A place where only God can protect you. As I grew, my frustration and anger grew because the reality had start to sit in that this is where I would be for the rest of my natural life for something I did as a kid and with that statement I am not justifying my crime or my early behavior in prison. My anger and frustration grew, because I would see grown men who committed the same crime as I did and would get their crime reduced to 2nd degree and only receive a 10 to 20 year sentence and I couldn't understand this. I would ask myself questions like am I such a bad person that I'll never get out of here.

As 36 year old man who has been in prison for over 20 years, I look at the group of young guys coming to prison today and it brings a tear to my soul because they have NO IDEAL WHAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN INTO. However as a 15 year old I wouldn't have given a damn about them or their victims. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my victim, his family and friends. The pain I have caused them is something words can not explain. My apology I offer them and society and I pray that some day they can forgive me for my crime.

In hind sight, I would have been your straight A student going on to become a working and productive citizen because Life is too Precious to abuse it.

State Reps and Senators in closing I ask that you give me a chance at manhood and forgive me for my childhood. I also ask that when considering these bills that you put a 25 year cap on them and make them retro-active.

If our children are our future then what are we saying if we give up on them and put them away for the rest of their life or for 30 or 40 years. When we do this we are saying the world has no future outside of crime and punishment. Our children deserve more from us as adults. We should protect them and not throw them away for making mistakes in life.

Sincerely,
Aron Knall *194329
Aron Knall 194329

December 24, 2007

Dear State Representatives & Senators;

To all concerned parties. Today I sit at Ryan Correctional Facility as a 36 year old man concerned about the Juvenile Lifers Bills. In 1987 I came to prison a 15 year old little boy confused, angry, frustrated and much more. Not even understanding that this is where I would die (PRISON). To immature to comprehend the seriousness of what the reality of my present circumstances of life had become.

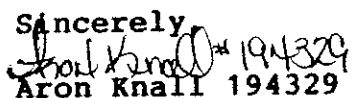
In the beginning my anger and frustration and my wanting to prove I was not a young punk took complete control of my wanting to survive inside of a mad house. A place where only God can protect you. As I grew, my frustration and anger grew because the reality had start to sit in that this is where I would be for the rest of my natural life for something I did as a kid and with that statement I am not justifying my crime or my early behavior in prison. My anger and frustration grew, because I would see grown men who committed the same crime as I did and would get their crime reduced to 2nd degree and only receive a 10 to 20 year sentence and I couldn't understand this. I would ask myself questions like am I such a bad person that I'll never get out of here.

As 36 year old man who has been in prison for over 20 years, I look at the group of young guys coming to prison today and it brings a tear to my soul because they have NO IDEAL WHAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN INTO. However as a 15 year old I wouldn't have given a damn about them or their victims. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my victim, his family and friends. The pain I have caused them is something words can not explain. My apology I offer them and society and I pray that some day they can forgive me for my crime.

In hind sight, I would have been your straight A student going on to become a working and productive citizen because Life is to Precious to abuse it.

State Reps and Senators in closing I ask that you give me a chance at manhood and forgive me for my childhood. I also ask that when considering these bills that you put a 25 year cap on them and make them retro-active.

If our children are our future then what are we saying if we give up on them and put them away for the rest of their life or for 30 or 40 years. When we do this we are saying the world has no future outside of crime and punishment. Our children deserve more from us as adults. We should protect them and not throw them away for making mistakes in life.

Sincerely,

Aron Knall 194329

December 24, 2007

Dear State Representatives & Senators;

To all concerned parties. Today I sit at Ryan Correctional Facility as a 36 year old man concerned about the Juvenile Lifers Bills. In 1987 I came to prison a 15 year old little boy confused, angry, frustrated and much more. Not even understanding that this is where I would die (PRISON). Too immature to comprehend the seriousness of what the reality of my present circumstances of life had become.


In the beginning my anger and frustration and my wanting to prove I was not a young punk took complete control of my wanting to survive inside of a mad house. A place where only God can protect you. As I grew, my frustration and anger grew because the reality had started to sit in that this is where I would be for the rest of my natural life for something I did as a kid and with that statement I am not justifying my crime or my early behavior in prison. My anger and frustration grew, because I would see grown men who committed the same crime as I did and would get their crime reduced to 2nd degree and only receive a 10 to 20 year sentence and I couldn't understand this. I would ask myself questions like am I such a bad person that I'll never get out of here.

As 36 year old man who has been in prison for over 20 years, I look at the group of young guys coming to prison today and it brings a tear to my soul because they have NO IDEAL WHAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN INTO. However as a 15 year old I wouldn't have given a damn about them or their victims. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my victim, his family and friends. The pain I have caused them is something words can not explain. My apology I offer them and society and I pray that some day they can forgive me for my crime.

In hind sight, I would have been your straight A student going on to become a working and productive citizen because Life is too Precious to abuse it.

State Reps and Senators in closing I ask that you give me a chance at manhood and forgive me for my childhood. I also ask that when considering these bills that you put a 25 year cap on them and make them retro-active.

If our children are our future then what are we saying if we give up on them and put them away for the rest of their life or for 30 or 40 years. When we do this we are saying the world has no future outside of crime and punishment. Our children deserve more from us as adults. We should protect them and not throw them away for making mistakes in life.

Sincerely,

Aron Knall 194329

December 24, 2007

Dear State Representatives & Senators;

To all concerned parties. Today I sit at Ryan Correctional Facility as a 36 year old man concerned about the Juvenile Lifers Bills. In 1987 I came to prison a 15 year old little boy confused, angry, frustrated and much more. Not even understanding that this is where I would die (PRISON). To immature to comprehend the seriousness of what the reality of my present circumstances of life had become.

In the beginning my anger and frustration and my wanting to prove I was not a young punk took complete control of my wanting to survive inside of a mad house. A place where only God can protect you. As I grew, my frustration and anger grew because the reality had start to sit in that this is where I would be for the rest of my natural life for something I did as a kid and with that statement I am not justifying my crime or my early behavior in prison. My anger and frustration grew, because I would see grown men who committed the same crime as I did and would get their crime reduced to 2nd degree and only receive a 10 to 20 year sentence and I couldn't understand this. I would ask myself questions like am I such a bad person that I'll never get out of here.

As 36 year old man who has been in prison for over 20 years, I look at the group of young guys coming to prison today and it brings a tear to my soul because they have NO IDEAL WHAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN INTO. However as a 15 year old I wouldn't have given a damn about them or their victims. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my victim, his family and friends. The pain I have caused them is something words can not explain. My apology I offer them and society and I pray that some day they can forgive me for my crime.

In hind sight, I would have been your straight A student going on to become a working and productive citizen because Life is to Precious to abuse it.

State Reps and Senators in closing I ask that you give me a chance at manhood and forgive me for my childhood. I also ask that when considering these bills that you put a 25 year cap on them and make them retro-active.

If our children are our future then what are we saying if we give up on them and put them away for the rest of their life or for 30 or 40 years. When we do this we are saying the world has no future outside of crime and punishment. Our children deserve more from us as adults. We should protect them and not throw them away for making mistakes in life.

Sincerely,
Aron Knall 194329
Aron Knall 194329

Martell Walton
#288765
17600 Ryan rd.
Detroit, MI 48212

Dear SCL Freedom Fighters, ①

Hello, my name is Martell Capri Walton. First, I would like to thank you all for your support and fight for justice for us. We are human beings and some of us make worse mistakes than others. A lot of guys that are sentenced more than 10 years and/or to natural life sentences at the young age of a juvenile; lacked the mental mature capacity that we have grown to have now. I'm 26 years old and I have been incarcerated on this particular case ever since I was 17 years old (November 1, 1998). I took a plea agreement to 22-40 years to second degree murder, but my guidelines score in my PSI report was for 12-25 years. I was 18 years old when I was sentenced for it. I will never paint a picture as if I'm an angel, but I have a real good heart. I just made a real terrible mistake and bad decision. And truly and sincerely within my heart, I regret it. I never had intentions of killing the young man whom was killed in my case. It was very unfortunate and that is one thing in my life that I really wish that I could take back. When I reflect back on it the thoughts that comes to my mind is: how and what on God's earth was I thinking about. I completed the 11th grade of high school and was currently in the 12th grade when I got charged with this case. I completed my G.E.D here at Ryan Correctional Facility. I also completed the classes of Culinary Arts (Food Tech), Conflict Resolution, Cage Your Rage, and I'm currently in the Creative Writing and Computer Republishing classes right now, as well. All of the classes that I'm taking now, I'm sincerely taking heed to the knowledge that I learn from them all. In each class, I've learned something from them and everything that I'm learning, I'm using it to enhance my personal growth to better myself.

(2)

for when I get home. After I complete my computer class, I plan on taking college correspondence courses through WCCCD. The WCCCD correspondence courses was just made available for us to take. I read the Bible to receive a better positive spiritual guidance for my life and so that I can be a positive influence for my surroundings (loved ones). I am currently engaged to my fiancée Charmaine Locke and we are getting married real soon. She has been a very positive force within my life. I also have family that support me and that I communicate with regularly. They are: My Mother Candace Rankin, My step-father Gary Hicks, My older Brother Robert Rankin, my Aunt Enola Peterso, my cousins Genovia and Damaya Peterson, my cousins Demetrius Anderson and Paige Williams, and my Uncle Granada Walton. They will be my support system when I come home. I plan to work multiple jobs when I get home to reach goals that I want to achieve for myself and family. Plus, I want to be a positive example of people that has been through struggles; that has turned a negative situation into a positive, and that we can really change our lives, for real. I want to be proof of that, just like a lot of other guys in here that does want to, as well. We have the information for the flip the script program (which helps ex-felons with job training, helps you to find jobs, and just helps us to make a positive transition back into society, as well). I really support the program, because it's helping guys that really wants to get their lives in order and back on the right track. I truly hope that the bills 4402, 4403, 4404, 4405, and Senate Bill 0009, will be passed. I know a lot of guys that has been incarcerated at a young age, but they've grown up and matured, as they got older. They've learned from their past mistakes that they have made as young adolescence,

(3)

and I'm one of them. Since I've been incarcerated, I've really matured, learned a lot, by accumulating positive growth both mentally and spiritually, and I'm constantly learning and maturing as I'm getting older. I truly have the desire to learn as much as I can and possible. I sincerely within my heart see life in a total different way now and I thank God and my family for that. At age 17 and under, we don't have the mental/mature capacity that we do when we are in our mid to late 20's, 30's, and up. Some of us make much worse mistakes than others do at a very young age, because we are so immature, lack guidance, and don't fully understand the destruction that we are causing, until later on in our lives when we truly/sincerely mature and grow up, and reflect back on our past ignorant immaturity. That's why that I believe that we shall be given a second chance, because a lot of us really has learned from our mistakes and grown from them. I truly believe that we can be used as a tool to help the young people or just people period that are out there that are going in the wrong direction and/or in the same direction that we traveled in, as well. We can try to help lead them in the correct direction, by sharing our experiences so that they will learn from our mistakes. Even if the bill does not affect me, it still is important to me that these juvenile bills will be passed, because I see a lot of men that deserves a second chance. People make mistakes in life, but I believe that after a person has paid for the consequences that a person/human being should be given a second chance. We sincerely within our hearts thank and appreciate you all so much for your support and fight for justice for us. Thank you and God Bless You All...

Sincerely from,
Martell Walton

12-18-07

Second Chance Legislation

I am writing in concern of the upcoming hearing regarding the Juvenile bill.

My name is Priest Carroll #215122, I reside at Carson City Corr. Fac., I was convicted of second degree murder and attempted murder and felony firearm. I was sentenced to 27 to 50 years in prison. I was sentenced in 1991 in Genesee County. I was 17 at the time of my conviction!

During my time in prison, I have obtained my G.E.D and have completed all my requirements that the state has required me to except the Assaultive Behavior Group class.

So im really just sitting in prison with nothing to do but time. I have grown from a child to a matured adult during my incarceration. I can be a productive member of society. Sincerely
Mr. Priest Carroll #215122

Second Chance Legislation
Attn: Hearings
P.O. Box 313
Lake Orion, Mi. 48362

12/21/07

To whom it may concern;

I have no idea as to the effect of my opinion, but I feel my opinion should matter the most to some one or those thats serious about making a change. My name is Carl Neal jr. I'm one of the victims that came to prison at the age of 17 and I'm now 39, but 22 of those 39 years have been in prison for crimes that I didn't commit. I know that-thats everybody's song and dance up under these circumstances, but we all can't be dancing to a lie!!

As a matter of fact, the lawyer thats helping me and knows the truth is right in your neighborhood, has name is Michael Skinner, 27 East Flint Street, Lake Orion, Mi. You may have heard of him? I'm sure he would be glad to break everything down to you about how my life was taken wrongfully. but I don't want this to be about me, I just want it to be known how strongly I feel about these House Bills 4402-4405 being past and why!! Everyone deserves a second chance, especially, if there innocent. If some don't come soon and put some guide lines down, things are really going to get crazy in the next ten years. My name still mean something in the streets of Detroit, although I'm a completely different person from that boy that was taken off the streets 22 years ago, I have learn things about myself and life that I had to give myself achance to grow into and now that I think I have, I'm in no position to give back. My son and little brother, who are both 17 years old will listen to me and so will all their friends, I know that might not be much but its a start and this is how I know I can be of some use on the streets.. I'm trying to get several projects started at this institution I'm at now; Programs like a "Out Reach and Conflict Resolution program" within the institution.

Well I don't want to take up too much of your time, I just wanted to write and let you know I'm for the passing of House Bills 4402-4405.

Carl Neal 185182

Muskegon Corr. Fac.
2400 S. Sheridan 49442

12/25/07

TO: THE SECOND CHANCE LITIGATION & SENATORS

FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT TOWARDS ALL THE JUVENILE LIFERS. YOU ALL HAVE RESTORED OUR HOPES THAT EVERYONE JUST COULD NOT BE AGAINST US. PERSONALLY, YOU ALL HAVE JUST CONFIRMED WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT: SOME BELIEVES THAT I DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE.

I WAS 17 YEARS OF AGE WHEN THIS CRIME WAS COMMITTED IN 1994. I HAD ONE SITUATION AS A JUVENILE PRIOR TO THIS BUT IT WAS CLOSED, SO I REALLY NEVER HAD ANY REAL TROUBLE. I DIDN'T SET OUT TO BE ACCUSED OF MURDER AND I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW THAT MY LIFE WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FOR GOOD ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRIME. I'M SORRY THAT ANOTHER YOUNG MAN HAD TO LOSE HIS LIFE OVER WHAT WAS REALLY NOTHING NOW THAT I LOOK AT IT. HE HAD A SON AND HIS SON HAS BEEN WITHOUT HIS FATHER FOR 13 YEARS NOW. I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN WHICH MEANS I'VE MISSED OUT ON HAVING ME A FAMILY. I WAS SUPPOSE TO BEGIN MY SENIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL A WEEK BEFORE I GOT INTO TROUBLE, MY GRADES SLIPPED IN MY SECOND SEMESTER OF MY JUNIOR YEAR BUT I MADE MYSELF A PROMISE TO ATTEND NIGHT CLASSES ALONG WITH MY REGULAR CLASS DURING THE DAY. I WANTED TO GRADUATE BECAUSE THAT WAS EXPECTED OF ME BY SO MANY OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS & FRIENDS. I STILL HAVE CONTACT WITH ONE OF MY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO OFTEN ASK ME WHERE DID I GO WRONG. A SECOND CHANCE TO ME WOULD ME RIGHTING THIS ONE WRONG AND GETTING MY LIFE THAT PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

I HAVE BECOME A MAN WITH A PURPOSE NOT ONLY TO PROVE TO SOCIETY THAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM MY MISTAKE BUT TO MYSELF AND MY FAMILY. I DON'T WANT MY LIFE TO JUST BE "HE DID A CRIME SO DON'T LET HIM OUT", I DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS!!!

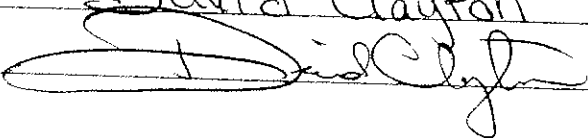
THE SYSTEM HAD COLLEGE WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE BUT ~~THEY~~ THEY TOOK THAT AWAY SAYING THAT WE DID NOT DESERVE TO HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY FROM INSIDE THESE WALLS AND GATES. I DID OBTAIN MY G.E.D. I'VE HAD MY RUN-INS ON THE "YARD" BUT FOR THE MOST PART I'VE REMAINED TROUBLE FREE. I KNOW THAT I WOULD DO THE SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM GOOD BY STAYING EMPLOYED AND MOVING TOWARDS GETTING MY LIFE TOGETHER AS A PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN OF MY COMMUNITY.

IN CLOSING, I HAVE NEVER HAD A STABLE HOME BASE BUT I KNOW THAT I WAS LOVED. MY PARENTS BOTH HAD REMARRIED AND THAT WAS HARD BECAUSE I WAS UNABLE TO SEE MY MOTHER, LIKE SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE I GREW UP IN BROKEN HOMES THAT PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN MY WANTING TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE FRIENDS I HAD. I WAS NOT MATURE ENOUGH TO PROCESS MY THOUGHTS IN A MANNER IN WHICH I COULD THINK/CONDUCT MYSELF THE WAY THAT I DO NOW. I SPOKE WITHOUT THINKING, I DID THINGS WITHOUT THINKING OF THE CONSEQUENCES PRIOR TO DOING THEM. NOW I THINK BEFORE I SPEAK FOR THE MOST PART AND I THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE I DO SOMETHING THAT I MAY REGRET LATER.

I PRAY THAT YOU ALL ARE ABLE TO PASS THESE BILLS BECAUSE WE DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE AND I REALLY BELIEVE THAT WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE AND ARE CONTINUING TO DO FOR YOUR CHILDREN AT THIS STRUGGLE. WE WILL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL FOR YOU.

IT MEANS A LOT TO US. IT IS SAID THAT YOU CAN
JUDGE THE TRUE CHARACTER OF A MAN BY WHAT HE DOES
FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN DO NOTHING FOR HIM. THE CHARACTER
OF EVERYONE OF YOU SPEAKS OF ALL THE GOOD IN THIS WORLD.

THANK YOU.

Sincerely,
David Clayton


Mailed to: SCL
ATTN: HEARING
P.O. Box 313
Lake Orion, MI 48362

Dated: December 18, 2007

I'm Mr. Robert L. Whitfield #225772, a NOW (31 year old) Juvenile Lifer convict, who is currently detained at the Muskegon Correctional Facility. I've been incarcerated since the date of my arrest (on January 24, 1992), at the Age of 15. Meaning, that on (January 24, 2008) I would have been locked up for 16 YEARS.

I'm a born and raised Lansing, Michigan resident, that initially had NO CRIMINAL RECORD, before my being convicted in Ingham County, for 1st Degree Felony Murder; Assault with intent to commit Murder; and Felony Firearm. Although I admit to, before this case, of having been immersed in aspects of indulgence in the (buying, selling, & USAGE) of Marijuana. Which later led to Co-Defendants and I attempting a Drug Transaction/Robbery (of 1 Pound of Weed), that ultimately evolved to the late Mr. Joseph Kuchar being fatally shot (ONCE), and also Mr. Gary Fuller being shot at and grazed (ONCE).

In my case, and in TRUTH, the record reflects that I never made a statement or testified. So as of now, I want to admit, in the name of God, that "I was the ACTUAL SHOOTER, back then (1992)." But I also give my WORD (in respect of the Victims) that "I had NO INTENTIONS of killing anyone!!!" My Co-Defendants and I never premeditated or talked about taking anyones life. It was just shooting that quickly occurred, during our immature reative foolish discretion (used as MINORS), upon realizing that the Robbery was going to shambles (having yet obtained the DRUGS we had came for).

I honestly believe that young children (JUVENILES) as myself, who've made the detrimental mistake of taking someone/or others life, (in a Felonious Offense committed), should be granted and worthy of a SECOND CHANCE. Especially in the case of them having actually changed & matured, as still positively developing YOUNG ADULT.

Speaking specifically on behalf of myself; I'm sorry for my prior actions as a 15 Year Old child, in being the cause of a HUMAN LIFE BEING TAKEN. Now as an Adult, I take full responsibility & accountability for such, and am highly remorseful and sympathizing towards the agony suffered by the FAMILY of the deceased.

A wise man once said, in the name of God, that "If our children can't change the environment, then the environment will ultimately change our children."

I'm living proof, of once being a child of my city environment, that changed me for the worst, but since 1993 up until now, I've truly repented to God and have CHANGED & REFORMED for the BEST (better), and am a testator (and example) of how wrong decisions can become of detriment to not only one's own life, but also others.

To lock us JUVENILES away and throw away the Key, is a severe
Unconstitutional Injustice!!!!!!

Today, as a respectful YOUNG MAN, I in respect of the legisla-
tion, extend my earnest plea of your Favoring and Passing the pro-
posed JUVENILE BILLS. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert L. Whitfield

Mr. Robert L. Whitfield

Prisoner No.: 225772

Muskegon Correctional Facility

2400 S. Sheridan Drive

Muskegon, MI 49442-6240

cc:

My name is Yusef Qualls-El. I have been incarcerated since 1995, when I was 16 years old. I was tried and convicted of two counts of first degree murder, attempted murder, home invasion and felony firearm. By way of a jury, I was found guilty on all charges on the aiding & abetting theory, in front of Judge Wendy Baxter.

Prior to this case, I had also had a juvenile history, which included an original charge of carjacking/armed robbery, which was later dropped down to a unlawfully driving away an automobile because the steering column was broken, which would've meant that I stole the car, but not by force.

Also in 1994, I was expelled from school for bringing a gun to school. In this situation, another student was found with a gun at his home and on the weekend. He told his mother that he got the gun from me while we were in school. I was expelled from school, but no charges were brought against me since there was nothing that proved I had ever even seen the gun in question.

During the sentencing process of this case, those two instances were used against me to show a pattern of assaultive behavior. In neither case mentioned, was there any violence involved and in the matter of bringing a gun into the school, it was never even an issue that could have been brought against me in court because nobody ever saw me with the gun that they found on this other student. I refused to tell the administration anything about what, if anything I knew about the gun, so that I wouldn't be called a rat, and they expelled me from school for that.

In the case that I am incarcerated for now, I accompanied two other people to a house that was unfamiliar to me and three people were shot. Two of those people who were shot, died as a result of those gun shots. One of the people lived. From witness testimony and from physical evidence, there was only one shooter. Witnesses even testified that they saw me arguing with the person doing the shooting. They heard him ask how come I wasn't doing anything.

I was a known car thief who was asked by an older friend, to take him home. My car wasn't running by the time he was ready to go, so I knew of a car around the corner, that had been stolen before and was never fixed, so it was easy to get. Never was it my intention to get involved in a murder that night. I had never been involved in anything like that before, I don't think that I would've put myself in that position. Lives were lost and that is something that I have to live with for the rest of my life. I truly believe

that if I would've known that there was the intent to shoot and kill someone, I would have never been there.

The prosecutor painted a picture of me that was not substantiated by anything. It was said that I was this violent youth who didn't respect anything or anyone. The jury believed it, but the judge said "The jury rendered their decision which actually surprised me. I knew that Mr. Brown had done a very effective job and I thought that you'd at least get a sympathy verdict of something less than first degree, but they didn't. And the sentence is mandatory." She also stated, "Obviously Mr. Qualls is amenable to juvenile treatment." That was countered by "Despite the juvenile's potential for treatment, the nature of his delinquent behavior is likely to render him dangerous to the public when released at age 21." This delinquent behavior was never more serious than a stolen car. I had never been a threat to anyone's physical wellbeing. This is what my charges before this case showed.

Still I was sent to prison for what the judge called "past assaultive behavior". Nothing on my record showed that. On this case, I stole a car & that was the extent of my involvement & willing participation.

At the time that this case took place, I was 16 years old & I had left the protection & guidance of my parents. I was hanging out with older people, but my decision making process was still that of a child. I had no responsibilities to be held accountable for but in the eyes of the Judge who sentenced me, I was not only responsible for myself, I was also responsible for the actions of those around me as well.

When JUSTICE is left in the hands of judges, their charge is to do what is right. Sometimes what is right isn't what is popular. At 16 years old, I didn't know this. As a JUDGE it should be known. If as a judge, you go on record with the opinion that you were surprised at the guilty verdict of a jury in your courtroom, you have the power to do something about it, it is your responsibility to do what is right.

I am truly sorry for the untimely loss of lives & the part, however small I played. I am sorry that the victims family have to live without those people in their lives. This is something that I have to live with for the rest of my days no matter where I am. There should have been justice in this case too. But was it just to send me to prison for the rest of my life when you don't even believe that I should have been found guilty? Is it justice to call me violent when I have never been violent to anyone?

At 16 years old, I hadn't made up my mind about my life. I didn't know if I wanted to stay in the streets or if I wanted to go back home to my parents. I was scared of the disappointment that I know that my parents had in me. I wanted to face it, but I hadn't done it yet. If I would've made a decision to take a life, then this sentence would mean something different. But at 16 some decisions are just not really in your grasp of understanding. At 16 you place yourself in situations without really understanding it. It is only when you look back on decisions you've made in the past, that you see just how wrong your thought process can be in your youth. In a case like mine, they say that I shouldn't even be allowed to have the opportunity to show that I now understand how to make a decision taking into account the consequences of those decisions. I was a child who made bad decisions and I shouldn't have to pay for them with my life.

Yusef Qualls-EL

WEDNESDAY: DECEMBER 25, 2007
DEAR LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE
JUDICIAL COMMITTEE, TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

MY NAME IS SHERWIN "SCOTT" McMILLAN, I AM A 36 YEAR OLD MAN
THAT WAS CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND SENT TO PRISON AT THE AGE
OF 17 YEARS OLD.,,

I HAVE BEEN IN HERE NOW ALMOST 20 YEARS STRAIT.,
I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT THIS IS ONE OF, IF NOT THE MOST
IMPORTANT LETTERS THAT I HAVE EVER WRITTEN IN MY TIME OF BEING
HERE., SO PLEASE BARE WITH ME AS I DO MY BEST TO EXPRESS TOO
YOU ALL WHAT THIS BILL MEANS NOT ONLY TO ME BUT TO OTHER
JUVENILES OUT IN OUR SOCIETY THAT MAY BE IN DANGER OF COMMITTING
OR MAKING THE VERY SAME BAD CHOICE THAT I MY SELF DID IN MY
SITUATION.,,,

I WAS CONVICTED OF 2 COUNTS OF FIRST DEGREE CSC ALONG WITH
FOUR OTHER ADULT MEN!!!
I RECEIVED 2 CHARGES FROM THE SAME CASE AND GIVEN, LIFE ON
COUNT 1 AND 80 TO 150 ON COUNT TWO.,,

I HAVE GOTTEN NOTHING BUT 5 YEAR FLOPS ON MY LIFE PAROLE
HEARING., BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHEN THE 80 YEAR
SENTENCE IS A DEATH SENTENCE IT SELF!!

I WILL NOT RETRY MY CASE BEFORE YOU ALL BUT I AM NOT GUILTY
AND I NEVER HAVE BEEN.,,
I DO WANT YOU AND THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THAT I HAVE AND NEVER HAVE
BEEN IDENTIFIED ON THIS CASE AS ONE OF THE ASSAILANTS BY THE
VICTIM IN THIS CASE AND I WAS NEVER PICKED OUT OF A LINE UP.,
THERE WAS NEVER ANY DNA TO CONNECT ME TO THE CASE AND I WAS
NEVER NAMED IN THE POLICE REPORT AS ONE OF THE PERPETRATORS.,
SO HOW I ENDED UP HERE OR CONVICTED IS STILL A MYSTERY TO ME.,
MY LAWYER AN I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THE JUDGE IN THIS CASE NEVER
HAD JURISDICTION OVER THIS CASE BUT STILL HEARD THE CASE., HE
IS NOT AND WAS NOT A CHIEF JUDGE TO HAVE THE POWER TO APPOINT
HIM SELF A CASE., ANY ONE OUT THERE THAT CAN OR IS WILD TO HELP
SHED SOME LIGHT AND OR ASSIST MY ATTORNEY IN DOING SO WITH
REGARDS TO MY PLIGHT I BEG YOUR HELP?

THERE IS A PLETHORA OF ISSUES IN MY CASE THAT I AM SURE THOSE
OF YOU THAT ARE CONCERNED WITH THIS BILL WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN KNOWING WITH REGARDS TO HOW THINGS CAN AND HAVE BEEN A TOTAL
MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE AND YET SOME HOW, MY LIFE WAS ENDED AND
CONSIDERED IRREDEEMABLE AT THE MERE AGE OF 17?

I WANT TO ADD LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THAT I HAD ONLY BEEN
17 FOR 12 DAYS PRIOR TO THE CRIME I AM ACCUSED OF TAKING PLACE.,,

IF I AM GUILTY OF THIS CRIME., KNOW THAT IN NO WAY DO I
MEAN TO SUGGEST THAT MY AGE SHOULD EXONERATE ME OF THIS CRIME
OR OF THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT I WOULD POSSESS., I JUST WANT TO
STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AS A MATURE ADULT AND STATE TO YOU ALL
THAT I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT TO SEND ME AWAY FOR THE REST OF
MY NATURAL LIFE AND NOT GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE TO GROW UP AND
TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT LIFE WAS REALLY ABOUT WAS A VERY EGREGIOUS
MISTAKE!!

SHOULD I OR ANY BODY THAT COMMITTED SUCH A CRIME BE PUNISHED? YES AND I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO SAY THIS BECAUSE ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT LETS SAY A CHARLES MANSON OUT IN THE FREE WORLD,, I WAS NOT A ANGLE BY ANY ONES STANDARDS BUT WERE IT NOT FOR MY HAVING THE CHANCE TO BE SAT DOWN AND GIVING SOME TIME TO GROW UP,, ONLY GOD KNOWS WHERE I WOULD BE.,.,.

I CAN AND I WILL SAY THAT I HAVE GROWN UP,, I HAVE REALIZED THE ERA OF MY WAYS AS A YOUNG MAN BECAUSE NOW I AM A MAN!!!

I AM NOT THE SAME BOY THAT I WAS 20 YEARS AGO,, I WOULD NEVER MAKE THE SAME CHOICES AND OR DECISIONS THAT I MADE BACK THEN AND I DO NOT THINK THAT ANY OF YOU ALL LISTENING TO MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY WOULD EITHER?

I DO NOT WISH TO ALLOW MY PERSONAL SITUATION TO CLOUD MY ABILITY TO LET MY PAIN CRY OUT FIRST FOR THE YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS THAT ARE FACING THE SAME SITUATION IF NOT WORSE THEN THAT OF MY OWN AND I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT THE SOCIETY THAT YOU ALL GREW UP IN IS NOTHING LIKE THAT OF THE ONE THAT I WAS GIVEN,, NOR IS IT THE SAME FOR THOSE THAT CAME AFTER ME.,

MANY OF THE YOUNG BOYS OUT THERE TODAY ARE GROWING UP IN SINGLE FAMILY HOMES,, THEY HAVE NO STRONG MALE FIGURES TO SHOW THEM THE TRUE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WRONG AND RIGHT,, THEIR MOTHERS CAN ONLY SHOW THEM SO MUCH ABOUT BEING A MAN OR A MATURE THINKING YOUNG BOYS.,.,.

I TOO WAS WITH OUT A DAD! WHEN HE DID SHOW UP IN MY LIFE,, HE CHOSE TO COMMIT SUICIDE AND THAT TOOK ITS TOLL ON ME AS A YOUNG MAN.,.,.

I NEVER KNEW WHO I WAS,, I TOO WAS TRYING HARD TO FIND MY OWN IDENTITY AND A LOT OF THE TIME,, THIS IS WHAT MOST YOUNG MEN DO,, THEY TURN TO THE STREETS AND THEY BECOME WHAT I HAD BECAME AND THAT IS: I BECAME WHAT THE STREETS MADE ME,, A PRODUCT OF MY ENVIRONMENT.,.,.

TODAY DAY I AM WHAT GOD MADE ME TO BE A CARING,, UNDERSTANDING PERSON,, A MORE COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING THAT UNDERSTANDS NOT ONLY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG BUT THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS.,.,.

SO,, I SAY TO YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,, THERE ARE THOSE OF US,, THAT ARE NOT THROW AWAYS OR ARE SO RUINED FROM ONE BAD ACT OR ONE BAD CHOICE THAT WE SHOULD BE THROWN IN HERE AND FOR GOTTEN ABOUT.,.,.

THIS WAS MY VERY FIRST RUN IN WITH THE LAW AND WHAT MADE THE JUDGE GIVE ME THE TIME THAT HE DID? I DO NOT KNOW!

I DO WANT YOU ALL TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE MORE REMORSE FOR THE VICTIM IN THIS CASE AND ANY CASE THEN I COULD EVER EXPRESS ON PAPER OR IN THE FORM OF A LETTER BUT I STILL KNOW AND FEEL THAT WE AT THE AGES THAT MOST OF US WERE WHEN WE WERE CHARGED AS ADULTS,, SHOULD NO DOUBT BE GIVEN THE SECOND CHANCE TO PROVE TO YOU AND OUR SELVES AND THE WORLD THAT MANY OF US CAN BE SAFELY RELEASED BACK INTO SOCIETY WHILE WE STILL HAVE A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE TO LIVE AS ADULTS,, SO THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE VIRTUES OF LIFE THAT OUR FATHER GOD HAD

INTENDED FOR US TO LIVE ANY WAY AND NOT TO FORGET,, GIVE SOMETHING
BACK TO OUR FELLOW MAN,,

YES WE MUST PROTECT OUR SOCIETY BUT IN THIS WORLD WE MUST
ALSO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!

NO CHILD IS BORN BAD,, MOST ARE CONDITIONED TO THE PLACES THEY
ARE PRIVY TO LIVE: I COULD VERY EASILY OF BEEN YOUR CHILD,,

10,, 15,, 20 YEARS IS MORE THEN ENOUGH TIME FOR ANY PARENT TO
SUFFER WITH OUT HIS OR HER CHILD,,

I MAKE THIS STATEMENT NOT TO SAY LETS FORGET OUR VICTIMS
BUT BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT CHILDREN NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO
VOTE,, TO BUY LIQUOR AT THE STORE OR ENTER THE SERVICE TO SERVE
THIS GREAT NATION,, YOU CAN NOT BUY CIGARETTES,, THERE IS A REASON
FOR THIS AND THAT IS BECAUSE,, WE AND YOU THE PEOPLE HAVE DEEMED
THEM NOT RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO DO THESE THINGS:

CLEARLY,, IT IS BECAUSE THEIR MINDS ARE UNDER DEVELOPED AND SO
IN CLOSING LADIES AN GENTLEMEN I PLEAD WITH YOU TO UNDERSTAND
THAT IF YOU SUPPORT THIS BILL YOU WILL NOT ONLY BE DOING WHAT
IS RIGHT AND FAIR BUT YOU JUST MIGHT BE SAVING SOME ONE YOU
KNOW WHO'S CHILD MIGHT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AS SOME OF US,,
BECAUSE NO ONE IS ABOVE A POOR CHOICE OR EVEN A DRINK AWAY FROM
A BAD CALL,,

WITH ALL ELSE SAID AND DONE I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL
A VERY MERRY-X-MAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR,,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING

SINCERELY: SHERWIN "SCOTT" MCMILLAN

201615# 141 FIRST ST.,
COLDWATER,, MICH 49036

God
Bless!

Scott
McMillan
201615

MR. LARRY IRVIN #248894
Juvenile lifer
MUSKEGON CORR. FAC.
2400 S. SHERIDAN RD.
MUSKEGON, MICH. 49442-6298

(DECEMBER 21,2007)

SECOND CHANCE LEGISLATION
(LEGISLATOR)
ATTN: HEARING
P.O. BOX 313
LAKE ORION, MICH. 48362

Dear Legislator,

May the arrival of this letter find you in the Best of conditions, Mentally, physically as well as Emotionally° and if not, then may this letter find you comfortably embraced in the Loving and Protective arms of 'God'.....

First and foremost, I would like to say that this is truly an honor for me to present this letter to you, now I know that your time is very, very short, so I'm going to say what I have to say and let you attend to the more important things.....

I'm writing you this letter to let you know that I am a Juvenile Lifer, that needs a second chance at Life and would like to see you pass (House Bills-4402 and 4405), so that I may get that second chance at Life. I support these Bills because my life depends on them.....

I would like to share this with you before I go.....

What is life? To live is to struggle, life would not be worth living without struggling. Look through my eyes for a second, what I see without a struggle is nothing. I mean when there's no struggle, there's nothing to look forward to, no goals to achieve.....

I must leave you for now but I will leave you just as I have came, with Love and Support in my Heart. I thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,
LARRY IRVIN

Tuesday; December 25, 2007

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen of the House of Representatives
Judicial Committee,

Hello, my name is Bosie Smith, an on behalf of my love ones and friends, we would like to wish you and your family the best of holiday season wishes. I write you this letter because as I sit here within the Correctional Facility of Coldwater, I can honestly say that I am blessed and within a unique position to be able to address my congress person's of the state about not only my situation, rather many more whom were or will be juveniles when entering the M.D.O.C.

Being an individual whom the current legislative bills you're holding a hearing at this moment on is directly concerning, some would deem me as being of a bias disposition, however I assure you that I will not allow such a prejudice to impair my views when it comes to Justice. So, allow me to start by giving you a short scope of my situation; I was a young individual of sixteen (16) years old when I made the mistake that brought much pain and heartache to not only my family, but the decessae family as well by allowing the emotions of FEAR and ANGER to overwhelm my being so much to the point of me committing the act that would result in a person loosing his life, which is something that I pray for forgiveness of each and everyday. Like most children of this age range, misplaced emotions that aren't checked often leads to disaster in one form or another. In my situation, it came in the form of this adult and I fighting, an out of fear of him bringing more harm than already inflicted, he was stabbed in the chest. I truly regret that day being apart of history and a page within my life book, however from that day, it has brought about a change that has made me a better person. I now have a deeper appreciation for life and maintain a peacefulness about myself that allows me to be at peace with others and my surroundings, deterring acts of aggression or violence with communicating and calmness, an ability as a child I admit, I lacked.

These Legislative Bills are heaven sent in my eyes because it became the voice of the orphaned souls whom lost there way at a young age. I support these Bills because they address the actual mechanisms that make Justice a working presence which all men/women shall and must rely on. During the time of my regretful act, many were of the mindset that children whom commit such acts should be treated as ADULTS which is understandable, I respect their views of that time, however none gave serious attention to these children mental maturity, living conditions or the circumstances surrounding such actions. It is firmly my position that young people whom find themselves in these circumstances should be punished, but also rehabilitated. I've learned from my entering the M.D.O.C. that this agency was geared towards correcting the behaviors and mentalities of persons whom placed the value of the public safety and society in jeopardy, however such programs that were instrumental to these objectives being gained is long in the past so a person must individually work on those areas that affected his/her behavior and mentality while here if bettering themselves should be what they would like to do for themselves to become a better person and hopefully, one day a faithful member of their community and society as a whole again, and I'm proud to say that I've captured these things that has bettered my behavior and mentality while incarcerated, such as morals, principles, integrity and a healthy spiritual awareness that has enriched my life and those whom I come in contact with because I truly feel that redemption isn't gained until one has used their

experience to better another's life, which I have been engaged in and would like to become apart of by becoming a mentor, sharing my experience with children, arming them with understanding in hopes that such efforts will promote more youth to become ambassadors of this plight, championing this cause.

I know that there are many in the same situation whom had many hardships and obstacles that children just shouldn't have to deal with, however understanding that this is the facts for many individuals whom these bills affect, I appeal to the humanitarian within you all, and the public service whom you must protect, not just for myself, but for the many young people whom might take such a drastic step in the future, please consider that although there is a sense acknowledging right from wrong, **children** aren't armed with that experience in fully understanding the consequences that follow wrong or bad choices. This is not to marginalize or take away from the hurt and pain many of us has caused the families of the deceased, as well as our own, but society as a whole. I am of the belief that properly addressing these issues will restore the morals on which the foundation of our country was built that the international community believes America has lost, and at the same time instill hope for the future generations that as Adults, we will not give up or turn our backs on them.

As a 32 year old man today, I only wish that I would have truly known better, however I am responsible for that which I did as a child. Nevertheless, that child has become a man, and as a man I plead to all affected by this, directly or indirectly and you all as a legislative body to give the children of tomorrow a **Second Chance** today an utilize the past as a means of correcting the present.

Respectfully,

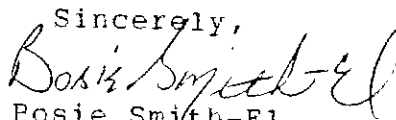
Mr. Bosie Smith
Mr. Bosie Smith

Sunday; December 23, 2007

Dear Second Chance Legislation,

Hello dear friends, how are you all doing? I write you in regards to the latest letters you all send out, which I got from another individual here with me at this facility that I'm addressing. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate you all on in your latest success dealing with the hearing which has been scheduled for the juvenile bills.

I have wrote a letter which I hope can be utilized during the course of the hearing in being read, however I know that such a decision depends on what you guys think of it's contents. Also, I have passed this information on to family members in hopes that they will be contacting you all to attend and hopefully give testimony on my behalf. Again, I would like to commend you all on the job well done, however I know that this isn't the final step in reaching the destiny that we seek. I would like to thank you all for your tiredless efforts that you've put forth thus far and the continual work I'm confident you all will continue until this issue comes to pass. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to present at the hearing, I would like to wish you all on the behalf of my family members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Until receiving further information from you concerning how things went, may GOD bless your efforts and smile on our sincerity.

Sincerely,

Posie Smith-El

Robert S. Prince #320502
Ryan Correctional Facility
17600 Ryan Road
Detroit, Michigan 48212

December 28, 2007

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to Thank all the supporters, members and legislators of the Second Chance Legislation for the Juvenile Lifers Bills.

I feel my life is held in the balance of the outcome concerning the passage of the juvenile bills, because at the time of my incarceration I was 17 years of age. A time where I didn't weight the outcome of my decisions. Now at 25 I sit in prison with the maturity I lacked as a child. The maturity to make the right decisions and the understanding of what life means. As I look back I only can wish that my victim and their family can understand that I was only a child not fully comprehending the seriousness of my actions. Today I apologize to my victim, the family, friends and the world. I sincerely pray that I can be forgiven by God, them and the world.

Today I understand that we all make mistakes and the only mistake or crime that can not be re-paid is the lost of someone life. With this understanding, it is my duty to help as many people as I can to understand the importance of how beautiful, precious and worthy life is. Through this, maybe I can reach someone and keep them from making the wrong choices or decisions in their lives. So many of our young people 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 years of age are lost, unfortunately misguided by the wrong people. People they feel are their friends and hero's. From being one of those children years ago I say please stop giving up on the children, but give them help and assistance towards a better life. We can reach our children and prison isn't the answer. 25 Years is a long time. Please consider putting this into these bills as a cap and give all the children who were left behind because we as society gave up on them by putting them in prison for the rest of their lives or for 20 and 30 years. Please pass the juvenile bills and make them retro-active while considering those juvenile incarcerated for parole.

Thank You for hearing my thoughts and most important, remembering a child deserves to be treated as a child and not an adult.

Sincerely, Robert S. Prince

Robert S. Prince

December 22, 2007
From: Alberto Nunez-Bey #242584
Kinross Correctional Facility
166770 Watertown Drive
Kincheloe, Michigan 49788

To: Deb Labelle
Second Chance Legislature
221 N. Main St. Ste 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Re: Juvenile Bills

Hello. Thank you for your advocacy in the reform of the Juvenile Bills. I am in support of it as well. Not only because I am an inmate who will be effected by it directly.

There is not only the issue of sentencing at hand for myself or others. Great urgency is needed in finding solution to deal with problems of the youth. It is understood that if at any time any one person commits a crime in this society, state, or country, they shall be tried in a fair trial. There are other avenues that should be considered other than prison under a long indeterminate sentence for juveniles.

I am serving 20 years to 40 years for second degree murder. At the time of my offense I was 15 years old. Now I am 30 years old. Prison was not what helped me become a man. A man that practices reason, morals, decency. It was utilizing my time to educate myself. Having the support of inmates, teachers, and my family was what has guided me to be a better humanbeing.

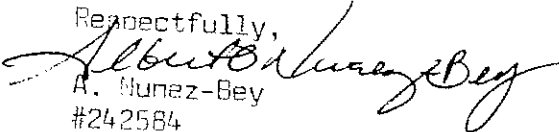
Now in recent years I have seen the population of the prison system become younger. What is most astonishing is the lack of education that these young men have. They are illiterate to almost every subject of our education system. Not to mention the stories of abuse, neglect, drug abuse that has left them psychologically unstable. I believe that they are in need of psychotherapy more than a prison sentence.

The M.D.O.C. has changed drastically in 15 years. The purpose of the sentence was to educate and rehabilitate. These days the programs that helped an individual then, are no longer being available now. Little by little programs are being removed for the reason of, Budget Crisis. So now we have inmates, especially young ones, that have nothing to do but wither away to resentment and prepare to become career criminals.

This letter is in hope that we as a great state consider the future of our youth be better than what past generations have or could have dreamed of. Prison is not the answer. Let us all, collectively develop a better course of action to deal with the youth of our communities. We must focus on our educational system not our prison system.

So please support the Juvenile Bill's. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,


A. Nunez-Bey
#242584

12/23/07

Mrs. Labelle,

I pray that God Almighty continue too keep you, and your loved ones protected, and safe. While each you bask in the warmth of His divine glory, & grace.

Again, I Thank you for your hard-work, and effort in helping each of us, Juvenile life's. Thank You!

I hope that during this hearing set for Jan 23rd of next month, people that's installed in the seat of power, will take into account that the views, and opinions of a young juvenile, shouldn't be compared to that of an adult. Because as a child, or juvenile you think you know when in fact, you don't have a clue.

Because, as a result of the transformation, events, and advances that's occur in my life, I am a completely different person today, than I was (30) years ago.

I am so deeply, deeply sorry for the hurt, & pain I've caused for so many, believe it or not as a youth, I'd not developed a conscience, that which directs a person down the path of right, or wrong.

Many of us (juvenile life's) actually played in the streets, aimlessly, only to be misguided, and misdirected by all the negativities of our cold and callous environment thinking that we were capable, and equipped to determine or decide our

own fate. A test that many adults have failed.
As for myself, I can say that I had no, no ideal
what life meant, and only years later did I
begin to realize my loss, and the value of life
isn't determine by men, but by God Almighty.

I was totally ignorant! ignorance of the
nature of God, and of one's ability to perceive,
and understand that I was, and I am a child
of God, bound by many cords, but a child of
God.

And the one reality, that stands out beyond
others are there's no way, a child uneducated,
can ~~not~~ be compared or consider equal to that
as an adult. So my question is if possible to be
answered, how can a society hold a child juvenile
to the same regulations & laws as an adult?

Once again, I thank you Mrs. Sabelle, for so
much, & I want you to know that you'll forever
be in mine prayers.

Sincerely,

Joe Wesley #
155090
16770 Watertower Dr.
Kincheloe, Me.
(49788)

I January 07/2008
To whom it may concern:

I apologize for taking so long to write the letter to the victim's family. But as you can see, I have changed address. I am now at the Mound Correctional Facility in the city of Detroit. Plus I found out that my baby sister boyfriend killed her, and the only thing they have found of her body is her arms, legs, one foot, and one hand. I was told about this on November 12, 2007, but she was killed in the late part of October before her 49th birthday. So my mind have been on that.

Well I am going to close. All of you keep up the good work. We truly appreciate all of your support on the bills dealing with juveniles ~~sentences~~ sentence to life without the possibility of parole. May God bless all of you, and your families always.

Sincerely
Kenneth Williams #141334
MOUND CORR. FAC.
17601 MOUND RD
DETROIT, MI 48212

PS I don't know where he live now, he have retired for the GM plant in Pontiac. His

what took place thirty four (34) years ago. Because of the pain I brought upon your family and my own family. My mother died of a broken heart in 1993 because of me being in head. I am now fifty (50) years old, and I will turn fifty one (51) years old this year.

Since I became incarcerated, I have done everything I can to make myself a better person. Not only for myself, but for you, your family, and my family. When I came into the prison system, I had a 3.9 reading average. During the time of my incarceration I have received my GED, some trades, Conflict Resolution Training, impulse control, and have some College credits toward a Business Administration degree. I am always trying to better myself for you, your family, and my family. I truly hope you do find it in your heart to forgive me and except my apology.

I must close. May God Bless you and your love ones always.

Sincerely
Kenneth Williams #141234
MOUND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
17601 MOUND ROAD
DETROIT, MI 48212

I January/07/2008

I must first give all praise, glory, and thanks to our heavenly Father. For He is the Creator of all the beautiful things in heaven and on earth. I also acknowledge that all things are possible through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is the head of my life.

Dear Mr. Herman Lafayette:

I hope when you receive this letter. It finds you and your love ones in the best of health and spirit. As for myself, I am doing alright.

I hope you don't mind me writing you this letter. But I want to apologize to you and the rest of your family for ever participating in the death of your brother Edward. I was truly hoping that I could do so in person. Even though my brother Keith Williams, and Linda Stewart Gayer told me that you have forgiven me. Even though I wasn't the one who actually killed your brother, I do take full responsibility of my participation in his death. Because if I wouldn't had shot him in his leg while we were arguing, it probably would lead to his death. I was a very immature sixteen (16) year old child back then in the year of 1974. And I have regretted my foolish decision I made thirty four (34) years ago everyday of my life since that day. I also wish that I could un-

Dear SCL,

My name is Frederick McKinney, I am currently incarcerated at the Ryan Correctional Facility in Detroit, Michigan. At the age of 17 I was sentenced to a mandatory L.W.O.P. for a murder in 1993.

For many, the year of 2008 marks the dawning of a new day. It will usher in many new things including opportunities to venture into unexplored territories of life expanding upon experiences, including establishing the almost mandatory new resolutions marking a beginning of life again, so to speak, for the purpose of making corrections to mistakes, repairing what needs to be fixed and not simply saying a change needs to be made but actually putting forth an effort to bring this desire into fruition.

Unfortunately for me at 31 years of age, the year of 2008 draws me closer to the point where my years of freedom have nearly been equalled to my calendar years of living in prison. This upcoming year will mark the 15th towards a life sentence.

My purpose for writing this letter is not to dodge responsibility for what I was convicted of, but to remind any who oppose the support of the passing of the juvenile bill. Those of us who are trapped in this web are waiting to show society that our resolutions have been made long ago and we've dedicated ourselves to change, not for the sake of saying it - but determined to prove our self worth with a more mature, responsible mind.

Thank you for the support and sacrifice you and your constituents and colleagues have made in our behalf. Without you where would we be.

Respectfully submitted,

F. McKinney, Jr.

ANTHONY HARRIS BEY

205237

17600 RYAN RD.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48212

MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVES & STATE SENATORS
MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL

Dear Sir/Madam:

To all concerned I am writing this letter in support of those juvenile lifers, I cannot justify anyone's crime for whichh they have committed however, I do believe people can change if given the chance, and to send a youth 14 to 15 yrs old to prison with a sentenced without the possibility of parole is saying they cannot change. As youths most of them do not understand what it was they were getting themselves into most of them were immature little children with no responsibility in life other then what their parents give them.

I think those who have been sentenced to life in prison have truly learned by their past mistakes, and now as adults they understand the value system, and if released back into society they will become productive citizens because life is to precious.

Therefore, I ask you take into account all that has been said about the juvenile lifers, and give them a chance by considering those bills that would put a 25 year cap on juveniles sentences and make them retroactive.

Yours truly'

Anthony Harris Bey

12/26/07

Dec 26, 2007

To: SCL
P.O. Box 313
Lake Orion, MI 48362

Fr: Eric Dockett # 193688
17600 Ryan Road
Detroit, MI 48212

RE: SCL House Bill 4403, 4404, and 4405.

Sie/Madam

This letter is written insupport of house bill 4403, 4404, and 4405; and why I've choosen to influence anyone who will listen in my cicle of family, friends, and listeners. It is over twenty years of observing youth offenders come into the prison system and become caught up, pressured, intimidated, abandon, and influenced by inmates and guards to a cruel life that offer no hope.

It has always been said that the way we treat our prisoners is a reflection of society as a whole. Do we abandon our children because of a troubled past or do we help them and award them for growth in behavior, intellect, and wisdom. Because, the legacy we leave for our children will reflect our future as a whole. Society young see and hear what's happening to them without mercy. So tell me how can the old and infirm expect mercy from a sibling who brother, sister, mother, or father for that matter was never given a second chance. Do we give more chance to our pets than we give a human being, who's able to learn and appreciate compassion enough to pass it on to others. Vote to give second chance legislation a try.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Dockett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

January 2, 2008

James Bryant #130565
Ryan Correctional Facility
17600 Ryan Rd.
Detroit, Mich. 48212

Re: Second Chance Legislation

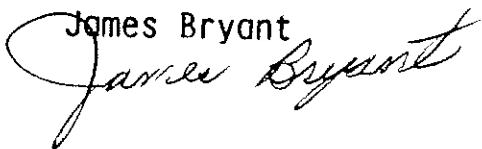
I have been serving a life sentence for the past 36-years for my involvement in a robbery situation which inadvertently escalated into a fatality. I was in my early twenties when this one incident incaged my life.

Through the years I have sadly witness far too many young men grow-up in prison, mostly of color, who committed crimes as Juveniles. I have watched many of them mature on prison soil, with only a spectrum of hope; these young men are languishing on prison soil for crimes committed as a boy.

Its time the decision apparatus of this State temper justice with mercy by affording these "Youth Offenders" a second chance to make good of their lives, before they become too old to do anything but create future health woes on the State.

Our Penal system has adopted the ideology of "over-kill" under the pretense of "Public Safety", but in reality, its the prison head-count that is more significant. No amount of time nor regrets can undo the unwise choices we made as a boy, when we learn better, we do better! Therefore, I fully advocate support for the passage of House Bill 4403, 4404, and 4405.

Sincerely yours,

James Bryant


12-23-07

THIS LETTER CONCERNS JUVENILE BILL 4403, 4404, AND 4405.

As a member OF THE NATIONAL LIFER'S OF AMERICA, INC, CHAPTER 1009.

I would like to address this letter of support to SECOND CHANCE LEGISLATION.

My name is Williams-Bey #167-209.

I've been housed with THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS approximately 27years, and in that 27years I seen quite a few juvenile offenders come in this system as children; some may make it out while still young. However' on the other hand it is relevant to review the statistic which shows once in the system as a juvenile, our young youth of tomorrow are here for the duration of their life.

Enclosing I support the Juvenile Bill 100%

Sincerely'

Your's

Williams #167-209

December 26, 2007

TO: Deb LaBelle
Second Chance Legislation
221 N. Main St.- Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI. 48104

FR: Adam Grant #208274
Kinross Correctional Facility
16770 S. Watertower Drive
Kincheloe, MI. 49788

Re: Second Chance Legislation

Dear Ms. LaBelle,

I am writing in full support of the precepts of the proposed Juvenile Lifer Bill(s) and am fully willing to present testimony at the hearing or have these words read on the record.

As a resident of the Michigan Department of Corrections for the last 15 years, at several facilities, I have met a number of young men sentenced to life. While at Michigan Reformatory I witnessed many of these boys, 15 or 16 years old, starting the arduous journey that is life in prison at a time when they have no concept of what life actually is. At other facilities I have met men several years into these life sentences they have incurred as juveniles and witnessed mixed results. So though I do not fall under this proposed Bill, thus it will not directly effect me, I fell that as a witness to the results of the current law I do have something to offer in the argument.

I do believe that the current practice of sentencing juvenile offenders to life sentences is a sad testimony to the decline of our society. When one is labeled as "unredeemable" at such a young age it reflects on us all. If we feel there is no way in which we can save a child we are saying that there is no way we can save mankind. Until we reverse this trend, and the culture it has created, the moral downward spiral we seem firmly entrenched in will continue unimpeded.

The direct effects on those boys sentenced to life is as diverse as any other. I have been blessed to meet some men who have turned their life around and become upstanding members of the prison community despite their sentences, not because of them. I have also watched men who were essentially told on one fateful day that they had no worth believe it and become worthless.

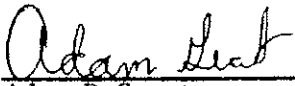
I think it is wholly accepted that children in their teens are impressionable by nature. By age 14 or 15 there may have already been a great deal of trauma in their life, which makes "turning them around" a laborious task, but it certainly is not hopeless. But nothing is gained from tossing them to the wolves. Nothing can be gained from this, the only thing that happens is another child is lost!

For the last decade I have been working staunchly at giving many of these children (now young men) tools to succeed in life. I have asked them to believe in something that I can not show them there is a reason to believe, but you can do something I can not. You can give them hope! Something many of them have never had and a small portion are clinging to with every ounce of their strength.

I only ask that you give them this and what they do with it is up to them!

I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I can not recall who to attribute this quote to, but it has been said, "Society can be judged by it's prisoners." If we all could see the truth in this then maybe we would stop warehousing prisoners and begin to focus on releasing men! Again, thank you.

Sincerely,


Adam D. Grant

cc: file

Ms. Deborah Labelle
Second Chance Legislation
221 N. Main Street Suite 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Anthony J. Pallitto
No. 202144 / E1-04
Kinross Correctional Facility
16770 Watertower Drive
Kincheloe, MI. 49788

December 27, 2007

Dear Ms. Labelle:

Recently I attended a meeting where the subject of the (Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative) was discussed. I have been reading, and researching, this grave concern along with your articles on this imperative subject for some time now. I understand that you are now preparing for hearings to be held in regards to this matter. I have been encouraged to submit written testimony in support of the passage of this vital piece of legislation.

Upon advocating that rehabilitation should of been interjected while we were all still in school in the programs that I facilitate I am a firm believer that life sentences, particularly without any possibility of parole, are inappropriate for juvenile offenders. This is because juveniles do not possess the full mental development to make rational decisions, understanding that their actions manifest consequences. Plus sentencing juveniles to life without parole can not get them the rehabilitation they need in this type of environment.

I strongly support the passage of this legislation (SCL) that would allow parole eligibility for offenders under 18 years old who has served 10 calendar years of any imposed sentence (life or long indeterminate sentence), regardless of when the juvenile committed the crime.

Sincerely,


ANTHONY J. PALLITTO

John E. Scott Jr. #162504
Kinross Correctional Facility
16770 Watertower Drive
Kincheloe, Michigan 49788

Deborah Labelle
Second Chance Legislation
221 N. Main Street Suite 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Dear Ms. Labelle:

I recently attended a meeting where the subject of the Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative was discussed. I have been reading, with increasing concern, your recent articles on the subject of Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative. I understand that you are now preparing for hearings to be held in regards to this matter. I have been encouraged to submit written testimony in support of the passage of this vital piece of legislation.

I am a firm believer that life sentences, particularly without any possibility of parole, are inappropriate for juvenile offenders. This is because juveniles do not possess the mental maturity of an adult to make rational decisions, understand the consequences of their actions, or in their defense. More importantly, rehabilitation should be considered as a primary objective when sentencing children, not a life sentence without any future beyond prison.

I strongly support the passage of this legislation that would allow parole eligibility for offenders under 18 years old who has served 10 calendar years of any imposed sentence (life or long indeterminate sentence), regardless of when the juvenile committed the crime.

Sincerely,



John E. Scott Jr.

Kinross Corr Inc
16770 Watertown Dr.
Kincheloe, mi 49738
12-26-07

Dear Mrs. Labelle

I am writing you in regard to the juveniles within the correctional system. Being in this system myself as a adult for twelve years, I can see now and even look back at my own struggles to keep myself safe as a full grown adult male. and all of the these children here that can't protect themselves its real sad, the over price they are forced to pay for a crime that they have done. It is if the judges has forgot regardless of age just destroy there future wick as already been compromised do to what laws the children has broken I say children Because juvenit is only a word to help people look passed a person physical being so their not looked at as a child when concerning laws being broken, yet we place these juveniles in total harms way in to this pit where there are predatory adult child molesters the sad thing is the judge knows that these type of ~~people~~ ^{people} in here yet they place children in this system once they are in prison the children can call for help By then its to late these are the some children that get even short sentences But even if they where long sentences they shouldn't put children with men (adults) Because they are children, they can learn better with a chance to feel safe around people that care about them as a person and look at them as a child.

What has this world come to when a country like ours don't even care about children that is sent to prison when we know they will one day be on the street.

The child that is sent to prison will have to fight every day to keep from being raped I've seen it and I've seen it today and by the time you read this letter think about this: some little juvenile being seduced as you reading this letter

The juvenile Bill is a great start I pray it's not just talk, like lots of men being found not guilty for crimes they been convicted of then over turned. Because of later evidence some of them juvenile convictions are being overturned also, how can a justice system overturn a child being raped? ask a heartless judge that.

protect the children

Thank you

#260715

JERRY W. LASHUAY 176424
KINROSS CORR FACILITY
16770 S. WATERTOWER DRIVE
KINCHELOE, MI. 49788

December 25, 2007

This letter is not being written as a plea for release on my behalf, but on behalf of future juveniles who may be sentenced to an adult prison in Michigan.

Michigan's prisons are places where predatory adults target the weak, juvenile offenders and play upon their fears, inexperience, and youthful stature to coerce them into sexual slavery. When such events occur to children who are not under the sanction of law, we denounce it as criminal and spare no resource in our efforts to rescue them from such depravity. Yet what is criminal in another circumstance is overlooked by this state's criminal justice system and condoned by the Michigan Department of Corrections.

To sentence a child to an adult prison where he will be preyed upon is amoral; to sentence a child to spend his life in such a place as a result of a determination that he is beyond all rehabilitative efforts is inhuman, and tantamount to an execution of his soul. In refusing to sentence Nathaniel Abraham, convicted of a shooting that occurred when he was 11 years old, to life, Judge Eugene Authur Moore voiced a criticism of life sentences for juveniles: "Don't ask the judge to look into a crystal ball today and predict 5 years down the road. Give the juvenile system a chance to rehabilitate. Don't predict today, at sentencing, whether the child will or will not be rehabilitated, but keep the options open."

A survey by Wayne State University of Michigan citizens discovered that, when given alternatives, only 5% supported the practice of sentencing children to life without parole. Michigan judges and politicians have not been endowed with the power of God. Therefore, let them not rush to exorcise delinquent youth from the cradle of humanity, but have the courage of a Judge Moore to refuse a legislative mandate that he, and the will of the Michigan people, knew in his own soul to be wrong.

The Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy once wrote that a country can be judged by the way it treats its children and its prisoners. How then will this legislative body be judged, now that it has the opportunity to reinforce the worth of our Michigan children?

JERRY W. LASHUAY 176424
KINROSS CORR FACILITY
16770 S. WATERTOWER DRIVE
KINCHELOE, MI. 49788

SECOND CHANCE LEGISLATION
c/o DEBORAH LABELLE
221 N. MAIN STREET, STE. 300
ANN ARBOR, MI. 48104

DECEMBER 25, 2007

Dear Ms. LaBelle,

Enclosed, please find a copy of a letter that I'd like you to consider reading into the record at the House meeting on January 23rd. I'm sending an identical letter to the Belleville group.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


JERRY W. LASHUAY

Second Chance Legislation for Juveniles
PO BOX 313
LAKE ORION, MI 48362

John D. Clay-Bey #A145094
Lakeland Correctional Facility
141 First St.
Coldwater, MI 49036

December 26, 2007A.D.

Re: Second Chance Legislation

Dear Second Chance Legislation for Juveniles,

First let me say that I applaud your efforts to introduce Legislation that will stop children from being sentenced to live the rest of their lives in prison. I pray that the Law Makers of this State will listen with an open heart to what you have to say and that hopefully no other children will have to go through what a lot of us who are now on lock down had to!

Although I was 18 at the time of my sentencing, I was convicted of a crime I committed at the age of (17) Seventeen. At the time of my arrest I had **no prior criminal record, Juvenile or Adult**. I was sentenced to **SECOND DEGREE PAROLABLE LIFE** and I am now (50) Fifty years old and still on lock down. I have spent the past 32 years and 3 months striving to be a better person than that child who committed that horrible crime. Although my prison record is marginal, I have had no misconducts in the past 11 years. I have spent my time wisely by getting an education, I have completed my G.E.D. and have 36 College credits towards an Associates in Business Management. I have completed a Food Service Apprenticeship Program and am certified by the United States Department of Labor in Cooking (Institutional). I have also completed the Business Education Technology course here and am certified in Office 2000 computer programming. At present I am the Lead Cook on the AM shift here at Lakeland.

At present I have no outside support that can bring light to the fact that I have been incarcerated so long, so I can truly appreciate the efforts that your organization is making on the behalf of all of us on lock down who have been in here or may possibly be in here for decades for a crime we committed when were little more than a child!

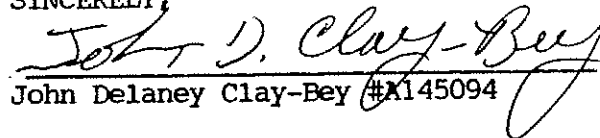
I realize that by me serving a **parolable life sentence** that I may not be effected by these particular Bills. Yet it is my sincerest hope that what you are doing will bring about some substantive changes in the Judicial and Corrections systems in Michigan. I find it ironic that as adults we consider those who are prayed upon as children, as innocent victims, yet when those same innocent children commit a crime, all of a sudden they are **responsible adults**! Our Society sends out mixed messages to our children.

I must admit that when children commit horrible crimes that they should

be punished, but from **personal** experience, I know that locking them away for the rest of their lives serves no purpose and is very costly to a society morally and financially. To date the tax paying citizens of Michigan have spent over \$800,000.00 to keep me incarcerated and that doesn't take into account the fact that I am now on Blood Pressure medication as well as Thyroid medication which makes the cost of housing me higher each year. The saddest part about all of this is that I am not alone there are hundreds of individuals like myself already in the system and unless the mindset of the Law makers change in Michigan the worst is yet to come!

Again I thank you for the efforts that you are making for all those concerned. And I pray that God is pleased by what you do for humanity's sake and that His blessings be upon you and all those you love.

SINCERELY,


John Delaney Clay-Bey #X145094

December 21, 2007

SCL
Attn: Hearing
PO Box 313
Lake Orion, MI 48362

RE: Senate Bills 0006, 0009, 0028 and 0040

To Whom This May Concern:

I would like to speak at the hearing scheduled for January 23, 2008.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter mailed yesterday that will give the reasons I support the above bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Strunk".

Betty Strunk
PO Box 142 -- 300 Cherry Street
LeRoy, MI 49655
231-768-4758

December 20, 2007

SCL

Attn: Hearing
PO Box 313
Lake Orion, MI 48362

RE: Senate Bills 0006, 0009, 0028 and 0040

To Whom This May Concern:

My son was sentenced to life without chance of parole over 20 years ago for a crime he committed at the age of 16. That he should be punished severely for his crime goes without saying, but life without parole seems an unjust sentence.

Since incarceration, he has been an exemplary prisoner. He has taken many educational courses and passed them with high marks, always held a job, and helps others whenever possible. I feel he has turned his life around completely in the last 20 years.

During the last few years I have become involved with Second Chance legislation. After reading the histories of some of the children sentenced to life without parole it has become apparent to me that Michigan law as it now stands is unjust. So many of these young people have truly turned their lives around and could be a productive part of society given a chance.

It would be easy for me to quote you statistics and stories of these young people but I am sure you will be receiving a great deal of this type of information. The bottom line – it is inhumane to sentence a young person to a possible 70+ years of life behind bars.

I pray you can find it in your heart to consider the lives these bills would affect. The number of lives may not be large, but they are very important lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Strunk".

Betty Strunk
PO Box 142 – 300 Cherry Street
LeRoy, MI 49655
231-768-4758

REQUEST TO PRESENT AN ORAL TESTIMONY RE: JUVENILE BILLS

Name: Rebecca Medina

Address: 2631 W. Predmore Rd.

Oakland, MI. 48363

Email: mami1952@att.net

Telephone: 248-693-6544

Profession: Retired Teacher

My reasons for supporting the juvenile bills:

I support the juvenile house bills 4402-4405 because as a high school teacher, I learned that children are often impulsive, making bad decisions, yet they do grow up. No child should be written off as hopeless, and teenagers are just big children.

Teenagers should be held accountable for their crimes, but within a system which shows faith in their rehabilitation. Children CAN be rehabilitated. To sentence a minor to a life sentence negates this possibility. We have a "correctional" system, which by its very name states that our society's goal is to correct the future behavior of inmates through a rehabilitative program.

One of my former students got into drugs at age sixteen. He was an impetuous boy to begin with, and drugs did nothing to help his impulsive nature. He killed his drug dealer in a drug-related dispute and has been in the prison system for over twelve years now. In these past twelve years, this confused boy has evolved into a mature young man who sees the world in a very different way. He has grown up. He has availed himself of the many rehabilitative programs offered in prison. He has worked within the prison system fostering peace, facilitating "Cage the Rage" sessions. He has obtained his G.E.D. and is pursuing a college degree through correspondence. He would very much like to mentor troubled youths one day, if paroled. I have infinite respect for the young man he has become. I hope that if the juvenile bills pass, he will be allowed to realize his dream. He is certainly an example of a rehabilitated person.

I would like to present an oral testimony at the January 23 hearing, if you see fit. Otherwise, please accept this as my written testimony.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Medina

December 21, 2007

Mary Alto
3116 Pittsburg St.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46803

Michigan House of Representatives
House Representative Mr. Paul Condino
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 38909-0135

Mr. Condino,

On behalf of my son, Gregory Wines, I would like to testify at an upcoming committee meeting scheduled January 23, 2008 concerning House Bills 4402, 4403, 4404 and, 4405. Enclosed please find an outline and copy of my planned speech.

I would like to take this opportunity thank you for all you've done to ensure that these bills receive a fair hearing and ensuring passage of them. I look forward toward your approval of my testimony and thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely, *Mary K. Alto*

Mary Alto
(260)-420-3707
3116 Pittsburg St.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46803

cc: file
scl

Outline

- Short introduction about my son and the realizations he's had since the time of his crime.
- Reading of a letter shared with me from Gregory to his Victim's mother.

For someone to say that a child today is what they will be tomorrow is a sad statement. We all grow and change throughout our lifetimes. However, our children are the most susceptible to growth and change. My son realizes that the things he partook in contributed to an awful chain of events. He realizes now, that this one choice in life as a child has hurt many.

Its been through growth and maturity that Greg has come to gripe with his actions and what those actions resulted in, i.e. the consequences. As a fully grown man he's forced to live with the decisions he made as a child and harbors the guilt from those actions. I believe, if you'll take the time to listen to a letter he's written, you too will see the realizations he has reached in his life and the strife he deals with.

This letter was originally written on February 23, 2006, but because I've been unable to find you I've also been unable to send it. I've attempted to locate you and in fact, on May 30, 2006 sent three letters to persons listed as "Auw" in hopes of finding you but, to date I've received no response. Its my hope that I'll be able to reach you through whatever means I may find in the future. This is why I've decided to save the letter below.

Dear Mrs. Auw

February 23, 2006

I've thought about this letter a million times and I've written it in my mind just as many times. Unfortunately, that's always been the problem. Drafting it in my mind,

and putting it to paper seemed to be two entirely different things. Its always been just too difficult to find the "right" thing to say.

I realize today that there is no right thing to say. I ruined your life. Its hard for me to say that and I'm slow to write this because my eyes are filling with tears. I know that I hurt you in a way that no one else ever has or ever could.

For so many years I couldn't understand why I was here, what did I do to get here? I always thought because I didn't kill anyone and I never wanted Kristy to die I shouldn't have gotten Life. Then, like a smack in the face, it hit me. I am the reason that she died. Its now that I have to ask for your forgiveness Mrs. Auw. I can never forgive myself, I can't, I know that I've caused you so much pain, your entire family.

It took me over five years to realize the magnitude of my crime, to understand that the little bit I did, or didn't do, contributed to your loss, to Kristy's loss. I didn't even understand what they meant when they said that I was sentenced to Life, it didn't register until much later. I understand that sentence now. However, the sentence that's more difficult for me, whether incarcerated or free, is always remembering that night. I'll never forget that and the guilt from that night is so overwhelming that I can't

explain how it feels.

I want you to know I've changed Mrs. Auw. I'm no longer the 17 year old child who doesn't think about how his choices in life will affect others or himself. I think, reflect and even harp on the decisions I'll make today. I contemplate, weigh and, evaluate the consequences of every decision I make and how it might impact others.

I've taken it upon myself to tell others how negative choices in life can affect others. I let people know that I forever live with the death of Kristy on my conscience. I try to warn others to take heed in what I say because, I know from experience, choices can drastically affect your life and the lives of so many others.

I want so badly to bring Kristy back Mrs. Auw, I want to take your pain away but, I know that I can't. I'm so sorry for that Mrs. Auw.

Writing this has been the most difficult thing in my life by far. I've wanted to write this for so long but the words just couldn't find their way to paper and, if they did I'd scrap it knowing you hated me and wouldn't take the time to read them. "I'm sorry" always sounded so pathetic and lacking, but its all I have Mrs. Auw. I want so badly to make up for the things that I did but, I know in reality there's nothing I can

do to make up for the loss I've caused you. I'm unsure if anything brings you solace but, I hope that knowing I never stop thinking of you, Kristy or her family might help. I think of you every day and hope that you are okay, that the hurt isn't as bad as it once was, I know that it will never go away, but I do hope for it to fade.

I can only hope that my apologies will help in your healing. I ask for forgiveness but, also understand if you can't give that at this time. I know that what I've done should be un-forgivable but, I hope that someday you'll find it in your heart to forgive me. Please take care.

Sincerely,

Gregory Wines

Bruce A. Cameron

BCA

DEC. 30, 2007

1968 PAGEANT Way
Holt, MI. 48842
(517) 694 5784

SCL

ATTN: HEARING
P.O. Box 313
LAKE ORION, MI. 48362

BOTH my wife and I ARE RETIRED
EDUCATORS AND WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT
ORAL TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILLS 2006, 2009
0028, and 0040 ON BEHALF OF HARL B.
STUNK A 191849.

I am enclosing copies of my letters this
year to Gov. Granholm and Rep Barb Syrum.
WE ARE in full support of this young man.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Cameron

Bruce A. Cameron
1968 Pageant Way
Holt, Michigan 48842

March 6, 2007

Governor Jennifer Granholm
111 S. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Karl B. Strunk prison clemency

Dear Governor Granholm:

I am writing you about a man who has been in the Michigan prison system now for over twenty years. He was sixteen years old when he was sentenced to life without parole for taking his fathers life.

I have known Karl since early 1993 at which time I saw a frightened, confused young man with very little hope for his future or his freedom. During the past several years I have witnessed Karl to grow in character, education, work ethic and preparation for a good life after prison.

We have enclosed copies of his case profile, the mitigating factors, prison conduct, mental health, prison programs completed, employment skills, family and community support. Two other enclosures are the catalyst of his delinquent behavior; and why he finds it difficult to forgive himself. The information is about eleven pages and if needed we can supply any additional information concerning Karl.

Both my wife and I are retired educators with a combined total of over sixty years in the public and private education of teenagers. I was able to work with Karl as a teacher-mentor for the better part of two years and was very impressed on his growth, faith and willingness to make a better life for himself. The best friend of Karl's father, as well as the juvenile-probate judge, has no opposition to Karl receiving a commutation. Over six months ago his mother filed an application for commutation and as of this date, my wife and I have not yet to hear of what the status is with her humble request.

Both my wife and I would sincerely appreciate if a member of your staff as well as you would investigate Karl's case with the MDOC parole board and give him sincere consideration for the time he has served. We are most willing to meet with you and staff as well as any others on behalf of Karl. Our home phone is (517) 694-5784. Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Cameron

December 21, 2007

Betty Gross
43 W. Alden St.
Coldwater, MI 49036

Michigan House of Representatives
House Representative Mr. Paul Condino
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-0135

Mr. Condino,

I would like to testify at the upcoming Committee meeting addressing House Bills 4402, 4403, 4404 and, 4405. I've enclosed an outline of the highlights of my testimony. If you would please review this and let me know if I'll be allowed to give my testimony I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your time, support and assistance in this matter. I also would personally like to thank you for initially introducing such bills on behalf of myself and my grandson.

Sincerely,



Betty Gross
(517)-279-4993
43 W. Alden St.
Coldwater, MI 49036

cc: file
scl

Outline of Points Covered

- Gregory's history with me. Example: How long I've known him and several experiences I've had with him.
- Why Gregory committed the crime he did. His involvement therein.
- Gregory's realization and attempt to do the right thing. Example: How he reported the crime, his full cooperation with authorities and, his providing crucial evidence for the prosecution.
- The guilt Gregory deals with. Example: A conversation we had about how lucky he realizes we should feel for our visits and the loss, in contrast, to that of Kristy's family.
- Gregory as a grown man and the growth and positive changes he's made. Example: Involvement in Grand Valley State's Community Working Classics II program.
- Gregory's desire to have a chance at life as he's never experienced, a grown, mature free man.
- Why I support these bills and why they should be passed.
- Why our children need to be treated as children and why Gregory is an example of what happens when we don't do this.

Gregory Wins #238711

Dear Legislators,

I, Julie Keefer, am founder and director of MorningStar Adventures, Inc., a religious, charitable, non-profit retreat and spiritual life center in LeRoy Michigan. I have advocating for Second Chance Legislation for the past three years since being in correspondence with Karl Strunk, a prisoner in the Kinross Correctional Facility in the U.P. I knew Karl only slightly when he was a teen, but know his mom, Betty. Karl was her only child. I walked with her through some very difficult months following Karl's murder of his father. Karl was sixteen. That was over twenty years ago. He was given life imprisonment without parole. Yes, at sixteen. That means, unless you intervene, Karl will spend more time in prison than most lifers. There are at least 300 youthful offenders in Michigan suffering the same fate as Karl.

Through my correspondence with Karl since August of 2005, when he initiated it, I have been deeply touched by this man's capacity to turn his life around and be determined to make something of himself because of his remorse for the crime he committed. He has consistently taken responsibility for his actions and expressed remorse and suffering for the suffering he caused his family and himself through this act. He has also taken initiative to learn and to create a life of meaning and service for himself in prison. I have been impressed by the quality of his observations, insights, curiosity, sensitivity, understanding and compassion, both for other inmates and in his responses to me.

I asked Karl to write about an incident he had alluded to in the events leading up to his crime. He responded with the story of a very unfortunate and violating experience that happened to him when he was yet a young and naïve teen, which set the stage for adolescent guilt, fear, confusion, insecurity, anger, rebellion and sexual acting out, which all culminated in killing his "best friend". He has written about this, as well as his experience of prison, on a website that a friend has created for him to post his writings. Karl thinks and writes very well. The website is: www.sixteenandlife.com.

He was a prime example of teenage confusion, guilt, fear, compensation and desperate anger acted out in a violent way because of peer pressure and the lack understanding and guidance for what he was going through. I believe parent's and society can underestimate the power of a juvenile's need to feel seen, heard and accepted for who they are, and the unconscious, negative ways they can manifest in order to get the attention they are desperate for. They do this, of course, at the expense of their true needs which they do not understand nor have skills to meet. I know this was true in Karl's case.

Karl's life sentence without parole was unjust for a sixteen year old who did not have the emotional support needed at a critical time in his formation and could spend more years in prison than a lifer who committed such a crime at a later age, virtually his whole life. It is also unjust because Karl has changed his life and become a contributing member of society. He has become a Master Gardener and uses those skills in the prison and for the local community. He is also using his writing skills to reach out to teens who have had similar struggles, and is speaking out about the health care situation in prisons, which is pretty dismal. Prisoners, such as Karl, who undertake such personal programs of learning, self-renewal and service as a way to take responsibility for their crime, especially need the opportunity to have a second chance in society. To fail to honor this would be a reflection of our society's moral failure. Also, their willingness to become a contributing member and positive leader in the society in which they have been incarcerated, and beyond when possible, is to fail them and those who have to pay for this incarcerated society. Incarceration is an opportunity for a young mind to wake up and learn from their negative experiences. Karl has done this. Many others also do. Karl is bright and creative in his writing skills and very connected to the natural world that is around him, which his letters convey. He considers himself a pacifist, and although he is a very tall and fit man, he

tells me he will not defend himself with violence against prisoner's who seek to assault him. It takes an inner spark and spirit to deal with the kind of realities Karl has had to live with, yet still have the motivation and tenacity to create a meaningful life for himself and for those around him. I believe that Karl would make a very positive contribution to society if given the chance beyond prison walls. I believe he would make a strong contribution to the betterment of society because he has tried to do that where he is. He is a leader, as his prison work experience testifies. His web site postings would also give you a good idea of his quality of thinking and his character. Yes, youthful offenders need a second chance to prove themselves, not be given life sentences without parole. Not to do that is, to me, is a crime!

There are stories of other youthful offenders who undertake their program of reform. We must not turn our backs on these person's who can make a positive contribution to our society. A life sentence for youthful offenders misses the possibility that through their crime they can come to terms with their lives and have wisdom to share with those who may fall into the same destructive, youthful patterns as they did.

Please, give Karl Strunk and other juvenile offenders a chance. It's a sad and unjust thing to deny a repentant person's heart the chance to make its desired contribution to our society in freedom. I know Karl's mother and friends feel the same way, even though we know Karl created a lot of chaos in the home and beyond. Neither of his parents could imagine what had happened to Karl to send him on this perilous path. Karl felt too much shame and guilt for what he had done to his father to be conscious enough to tell his parents or authorities what had happened to him to influence this very wrong turn. How many other youthful offenders have been caught up in similar, unfortunate circumstances? We cannot afford to just look at the crimes, but take a closer look at the unmet needs of the criminals, then work to help them meet them if they will so that they may make a creative return to society.

Please, consider supporting what is just for Karl and other youthful offenders by supporting this legislation, especially at this time when prisons represent a big drain on Michigan's struggling economy. I know that Karl would make a fine contribution toward re-building the Michigan we would all like to re-build. He, I'm sure, is not the only one worthy of this second chance.

Thank you for considering support of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Julie D. Keefe, Founder and Director
MorningStar Adventures, Inc.
20564 MorningStar Trail
LeRoy, MI 49655
231-768-4368
e-mail: morningstar@netonecom.net

On behalf of:

Karl Strunk A-191949
Michigan Department of Corrections
Kinross Correctional Facility
16770 Watertower Drive
Kincheloe, MI, 49788

17 DEC. 07

RICHARD SIMMONS #189585

MCF

2400 S. SHERIDAN RD

MUSKOGEE, MI. 49442-6298

DEAR SCL:

FIRST LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ALL THE JUVENILES THROUGHOUT THE MDO. ITS GREAT NEWS THAT HEARING(S) ARE FINALLY BEING HOLD ON THE BILLS.

I HAVE ENCLOSED A LETTER RECEIVED FROM LAURENCE STEINBERG. MR. STEINBERG WAS A LEADING PSYCHIATRIST ON THE ROYER V. SIMMONS, CASE AND AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE LETTER HE WOULD BE WILLING TO COME TO MICHIGAN AND TESTIFY ON OUR BEHALF IF ASKED.

IN CLOSING, I AGAIN THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND HELP IN THIS URGENT MATTER.

Respectfully:

RICHARD SIMMONS



Department of Psychology

*Laurence Steinberg, Ph.D.
Distinguished University Professor
Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology*

May 24, 2007

Mr. Gregory Wines
#238711
Muskegon Correctional Facility
2400 S. Sheridan Rd.
Muskegon, MI 49442-6298

Dear Mr. Muskegon:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning proposed legislation to eliminate LWOP for individuals whose crimes were committed before age 18. As I'm sure you know, many states are reconsidering their LWOP laws.

I am one of many scientists who are frequently asked to testify before state and federal bodies on juvenile justice policy, and as you might expect, given your familiarity with my work, I am an opponent of LWOP for juveniles.

I try to help the cause when I can by giving testimony when asked or submitting relevant written materials. If I receive a request to testify before the Michigan legislature, I will certainly do my best to do so or to arrange for a suitable substitute. I hope you understand that it is not always possible for me to fit in the many requests I receive to speak on juvenile justice issues into my schedule.

Sincerely,

August 27, 2007

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Mrs. Nancy Hendrick

Re: John Polick #144798

During the 1980's, I was a Recreation Supervisor at the Ionia Temporary Correctional Facility (a.k.a. Deerfield Correctional Facility). John was our clerk in the Athletic Department. He was prompt to work, dependable and a hard worker.

John worked well between the staff and inmates. He helped with the recreational activities, officiating games, overseeing the inventory of recreational equipment. He was willing to work extra duties as needed and helped with holiday events.

He let the staff know about any concerns. For instance, there was a softball game where two inmates started to fight and had bats in their hands. I broke up the fight. Later that day, John expressed his concern about my safety during that situation. I appreciated his insight and willingness to let me know that I could have been in great danger.

For the past ten years, I have been a general education and resource room teacher in a public school. I have shared my knowledge and experiences of working in the Michigan Correctional system with the students.

I have continued to correspond with John and feel that he would not be a threat to the public if he was given his freedom. Many times I have shared John's story with my students and they find it hard to believe that he has been incarcerated for over 30 years. Students feel that there are others who have done worse and didn't serve much time.

John has continued to stay in contact with his parents and family. This is so very important to have parental support and I know that he would be welcomed home. Also, there would be family and friends that would help him get a job. I would not hesitate at hiring him for a job or having my name given as a job reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: Nancy Hendrick, 13775 Jackson Road, Lake Odessa MI 48849.

1-8-08

To Whom it may concern,

I fully support Second Chance. I believe any child, seventeen years of age and younger, should be released when they turn twenty one years of age.

If they then commit another crime, have them serve an adult sentence. Give them a chance to be productive citizens. All they learn in prison is how to be a criminal.

We treat our animals better than we treat our youth.

I'd by pass the parole board, too. They are too slow to accomplish anything. Let the Governor pardon them. Send the kids home!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lee Wilder
4017 Crafton Rd.
So. Boardman,
WV. 49680

December 27, 2007

Dear Representatives;

I, Lynette Jackson, am writing this letter to show my support for the juvenile bills 4402 4403 4404 4405. I feel Aron Knall #194329 is a good candidate for these proposals. He was convicted as an adult at the young age of fourteen. He will be thirty-seven years old this year. I believe he, like so many other juvenile offenders, deserves a second chance. And I am willing to do whatever it takes to get these bills into effect as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for all your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lynette Jackson
Teacher Assistant
Detroit, Michigan 48204

December 27, 2007

The Honorable State Representatives
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Representatives;

On behalf of Aron Knall #194329, I, Delana Pittman, am writing this letter to show my support for the juvenile house bills **4402, 4403, 4404, and 4405**. I feel Mr. Knall, along with many other inmates, deserve an opportunity for a second chance at life. Not just a chance at their own life, but the lives of their children. A second chance to devote something more to the community they took from not realizing their own self destruction. I support these bills because when I think of the outrageous sentences given to children it hurts my heart. When I think of the immature child I was in my teens sometimes I wonder how I made this far. Like others, I made poor decisions in my youth, but to this day I couldn't tell you what I was thinking in half those situations. Like every other evolving person, these juveniles deserve the chance to help the next generation not make the same mistakes, to support their families, and to pursue their dreams after they have paid a reasonable amount of debt to society.

Sincerely,

Delana J. Pittman RDH, BS
Registered Dental Hygienist
Detroit, Michigan 48227
delanapittman@hotmail.com

Regarding Michael T. Jackson 179842

My son was convicted of first degree murder on April 18, 1985 in adult court by a judge in Pima County at a bench trial when he was a juvenile and sentenced to life in prison. The police lacked probable cause for arrest and he was a first time offender. He was seen by Mr. Beverly Anderson and Mrs. Elissa Bendick, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst and agreed that turning him over to adult court was not justified but the court ignored this evidence. Mike has had a perfect record since his incarceration and I feel that he should be granted a pardon or parole or whatever they call in now. We exhausted all appeals and I therefore support the second chance legislation for juveniles.

Jane Jackson,
14206 W. Heritage Dr
Sun City West, AZ 85375
Phone 623-547-5442
December 24, 2007

1/6/08

Greetings FELICIA,

~~Sorry~~ For the TARDY response, We were out of state for a couple weeks. I AM still interested and AVAILABLE to TESTIFY AT THE HEARING ON JAN 23, 2008.

GARY W. CONAT
1365 Kingsview Ave
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248 656 2377
g1conat@netzero.net
Police Lieutenant (Retired)

I CAN SPEAK TO THE SUBJECT AS THE FATHER OF BOTH THE VICTIM AND THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON IN A JUVENILE HOMICIDE CASE

I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE SCIENCES AND RECENT STUDIES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN BRAIN, PARTICULARLY IN REGARDS TO TEEN AGERS AND THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

I BELIEVE THE SECOND CHANCE LEGISLATION COULD PROVIDE FOR AN EVALUATION PROCESS BY PSYCHIATRIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL, ALREADY ON THE STATE PAYROLL AT THE FORENSIC CENTER, AND THESE PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF DISCERNING WHEN AND IF A GIVEN INMATE IS READY FOR RELEASE.

Sincerely, Gary J. Conat
over

P.S.

Thought you might find this
Article interesting.

The Attorney, Deborah LaBelle,
could be an Asset if she's
not already on board.

LL

12/20/07

Dear Paul Condino:

My name is Theresa Jackson and I've been employed as a pharmacist for 23 years. My cousin Craig Whilby was sentenced to prison in 1987 when he was 17 years old. He was sentenced as an adult, and is still serving time. As a juvenile he did not have a record. I believe in the concept of the House Bill 4402, 4403, 4404 and 4405 in regard to Second Chance legislation for juveniles and do hereby request the bills passage.

Respectfully submitted

Theresa Jackson RBH
241 Pleasant Circle
Stone Mountain GA
30087

To: Committee on Second Chance Legislation for juveniles
From: Alvita Jackson, resident of Michigan
Re: House Bills 4402-4405
Date: December 20, 2007

My nephew, Craig Whilby, was sentenced to prison as an adult before he was 18 in 1987. He had no juvenile record but he is still in prison.

As a resident of Michigan, I would like to request consideration & passage of the fore-mentioned bills. My nephew was sent to prison before he could vote.

Sincerely,
Alvita Jackson

My name is Tameca Young, I support the House Bills 4402, 4403, 4404 and 4405. My husband Paul Young was sentenced to life in prison without parole when he was seventeen years old. He has spent more than twenty years in prison so far. He has spent more time incarcerated than he had living in society. I don't understand how we can think it's o k to put a child in a cell and just wait for them to grow up, grow old and die. The only thing they have to look forward to is getting old and drying so they can be free again.

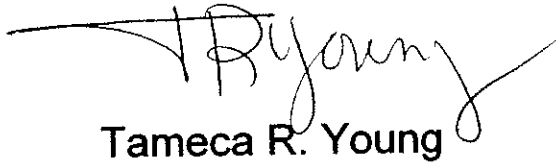
If this was going on in other countries the people of the United States would be in an uproar. How can people think it's good to do such a thing. I have a fourteen year old son who talks to his Step-father in prison more than his birth father. My husband gives him advise about being a teenage male. The sad part is he can only tell him so much because his expericenes stopped at seventeen.

How can we as a society sentence a minor to life in prison without parole when we as a society say that due to their lack of emtional and mental capability they can't:

- 1) Enter into a contract.
- 2) Buy alcohol
- 3) Vote for the people that make or change the laws
- 4) Join the military
- 5) work cetain kinds of jobs

We as a society say they can't handle the consequences of their actions. We have told these children good-bye and the next time we see you it will be in a pine box. There are so many kids that were wrongfully sentenced and we need to put a stop to this and correct the wrongs that we have made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Young', with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a flourish at the end.

Tameca R. Young

Ayanna Solgate
2335 Berkley Ct.
Saginaw, MI 48601

December 21, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support to the House Bills 4402, 4403, 4404 and 4405. I support these House Bills for many reasons, I have a loved one who is incarcerated at Carson City Correctional Facility, his name is Mario Henderson (Woods) #212651. He was incarcerated as a juvenile and has been incarcerated for seventeen years for a crime that he did not commit. Mario is innocent and currently has his case in the U.S. District Court of Eastern Michigan in Detroit, MI. His incarceration has been very painful for me and his family. Mario has an eighteen year old daughter who he has remained close to during his incarceration.

I strongly support these bills and would like to see them pass. I do believe individuals deserve a second chance. Sometimes our youth are guided in the wrong direction and make poor choices. I do believe as we get older we become wiser. I plan to be at the hearing on January 23, 2008 to show my support of the above bills. If you have any questions, please contact me at (989)239-9768. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ayanna Solgate". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ayanna Solgate

Gracie P. Hines
14802 Beavertown St.
Detroit Mi. 48223
'313-541.5940

Ms. Deborah LaBell
221 N. Main St. Ste. 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan
48104

Ms. LaBell,

This letter is sent
to you on behalf of the meeting January
23, 2008 at the Capital in Lansing.
I have spoken to my Bobby and
he stated that a letter could be sent
to your Office in his behalf. Bobby has
been gone so long, he is a grown man
now that was sentenced at fifteen years
of age, and I can rightfully say that
he had no lawyer worth representing
him. If we were financially able to
fight these rights we would do so. Ms.
LaBell and Staff, The Hines Family
Appreciate all the effort that you all
have put to get this Bill passed

for our children. I would
like for you to know and I am
very appreciative. The happiest
day of my life as a mother would be
to know that this "Bill" is passed and
my son Bobby have a chance to come
home.

Many Thanks,

Mrs. Gracie B. Hines

P.S. I am keeping the faith that
I will be able to get off work and
be a part of this history.

January 21, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Margaret Roberts. I am the mother of Nicole Ann Dupure, who is a prisoner at the Robert Scott Correctional Facility in Plymouth. I am also the grandmother of Samantha, now 3, who I am raising since her mom cannot.

Nicole was sentenced to life without parole on April 6, 2006. At that time she was 19 years old. The crime that she was convicted for occurred in April 2004 – at that time she was 17 years old.

I do not have a full understanding of the law in regards to youth offenders; I do know that I sat through a trial for my daughter, while she was charged with conspiracy to commit murder, and sentenced to life without parole. There was no solid evidence to support this harsh judgment, only the testimony of her then boyfriend, who confessed to committing this crime, and who also stated that this was Nicole's idea and that she helped him. This testimony came after he was offered a deal of 2nd degree murder sentence for his cooperative testimony against my daughter.

I am not saying that my daughter had no part in this crime. I myself, do not know the extent of her involvement. I have (had to) come to the realization that only 3 people know the truth, one of them being poor Shirley, the woman who was killed, who was also the kindest woman I knew. But I also feel that while I may never know the truth, I cannot give up on my daughter.

I have talked to counselors, who have opinions that a young person's brain is not fully developed until they are in their early to mid twenties. If that is so, then how can our court system send young people to jail without the chance of rehabilitation?!! What if there is a chance that they can see their poor judgments, and still become good, responsible adults? Is that not where the term "correctional facility" derives from?

I also want to know why the UK doesn't share in our legal policies? I am told that their first priority is to try to rehabilitate their youth, before sending them away without the possibility of parole.

I am in support of the bill that legislature would pass so that my daughter, and those like her, could go before a parole board rather than just being sent away without the chance of rehabilitation to someday return to society.

Thank you for reading this.

Margaret M. Roberts

